VALLEY VOICE

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Duran Files Election Papers in and Lawsuit Against Porterville

TONY MALDONADO

John Duran, 63, is one of nine candidates running for only two open seats on the Porterville City Council this June. He sets himself apart from the pack, he says, as a political outsider deeply involved in the community, having lived in the city since the 60s.

Duran recently retired from the California Department of Corrections, and is billed as a "Retired Inmate Supervisor" at the Tulare County Registrar of Voters' website.

John Duran

MYRIAD GOALS

His two main goals, he said, are to open the City of Porterville's government up to provide more transparency to the citizens of Porterville, and to help foster the growth of business in the city.

"I'm not here to do the same-old, same-old," Duran said.

He'd like to see the city do more to develop its east side, which he says has been neglected by businesses and by the city.

He'd also like to see the city do more to work with, and attract, businesses into coming to Porterville over other cities in the county, and solving roadblocks such as the delayed Super Walmart project, saying he'd encourage city staff, citizens and representatives from the company to come together and work out their issues.

His vision for a transparent Porterville would be to open up all aspects of the city's work: provide citizens with a blow-by-blow accounting of how the city spends its money, conducts its

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The Hanford Fox Theater at night. Photo by: Stiefer Photography (stieferphotography.smugmug.com)

Hanford Fox Theatre Temporarily Closed Following Ceiling Collapse

STEVE PASTIS

The Hanford Fox Theatre has temporarily closed its doors, the result of a partial ceiling collapse last month.

"Fortunately, no one got hurt," said Dan Humason, owner/manager, whose family owns the theatre. "It would have been a very dangerous thing if someone were in there at the time."

The collapse happened sometime between 8pm on Wednesday, March 19, and 7:30am the following morning. The rubble forced open the door that leads into the lobby, leaving "some shrapnel by the snack bar," Humason said.

"They didn't use beams 85 years ago, and the plaster gave way," he explained, adding that the ceiling was kept in place with wire mesh that was tacked up with nails about 1-1/2" long. "They didn't think about using screws." He said that structural cracks were found in the main framing of the ceiling.

The cost to repair the building is being determined, although Humason estimated it could be as much as $500,000. There is currently no timetable for reopening the theatre. "One thing we can say is that we'll be down for a long time," he said. "If we open the door, it has to be safe."

So far, criminal activity and water damage have been ruled out, and it has been determined that

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Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux answers a question while Tulare County Sheriff candidate Dave Whaley looks on. Photo by: David Miller

Sheriff Candidates Meet in First Forum

STEVE PASTIS

Acting Tulare County Sheriff Mike Boudreaux and Tulare County Sheriff candidate Dave Whaley shared their opinions and answered questions at a candidates' forum at the March 26 meeting of the Rotary Club of Visalia. Paul Hurley served as moderator, and Rotarians Lee Goldstein and Gene Yunt prepared and presented most of the questions.

Both candidates started by sharing their experience in law enforcement, which both apparently knew they would choose as a career at an early age. Both also have close relatives who are or were in law enforcement.

"My dad worked for the sheriff's department for 30 years," said Boudreaux. "I started learning about the sheriff's department at 5 and decided that's what I wanted to do."

"I decided at 12 that law enforcement was for me," said Whaley. "I never wanted to work anyplace else other than the Tulare County Sheriff's Department."

If elected, Whaley said his top priority would be, "to try to heal the divisions within the sheriff's department. Our sheriff's department currently is divided. Political races tend to do that, but this time, we had divisions before this race even started. It's important for the department that we're all on the same team."

Whaley would call for a management audit of the department. "It hasn't been done for the past 25 years. We need to look at the beat system and the size of the beats. We need to look at officer safety."

Boudreaux' top priority is "to provide safe communities. We have to make sure we have the resources available to us." He noted that he added 11 new deputies to rebuild the department after the recession. "We have to continue with our community partnerships," he continued, listing service groups and schools among those partners.

"We not only have to be tough on crime, we have to be smart," Boudreaux said, adding that he created gang units in both the north and south county, and improved intelligence

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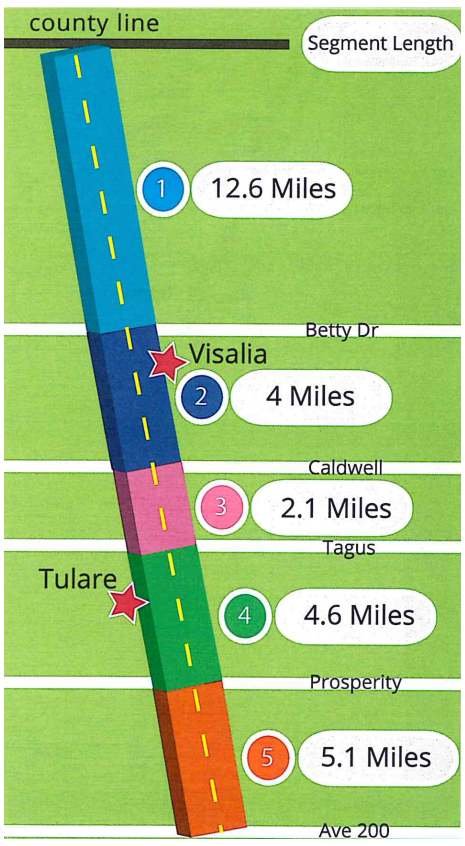
TCAG Receives $45 Million for Highway 99 Improvements

STEVE PASTIS



The Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG) will receive $45 million for Highway 99 widening between the City of Tulare and the unincorporated community of Goshen. The California Transportation Commission awarded the money as part of its SR-99 Project, recognizing the importance of Highway 99 to state transportation and commerce, especially in the eight Valley counties.

"It's TCAG's and a San Joaquin regional and a state priority to widen 99 to six lanes through the Valley to Avenue 200," said TCAG Executive Director Ted Smalley.

The funds will pay for about half of the 4.6-mile fourth segment of the SR-99 Project, which will ultimately create three lanes in each direction on a little more than 28 miles of Highway 99 in northern Tulare County.

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EVENT DETAILS

THU, APRIL 24 | 6:00–7:30 PM
SAT, APRIL 26 | 10:00–11:30 AM
Speaker: **Gilbert Fleming**, VA Accredited Attorney

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

History is a Gauzy Lens

One hundred years ago, ours was a different world. At this time in 1914, the First World War had yet to erupt--and it is precisely that convulsion which has since come to be credited with sweeping away the Old World. But has the New offered us anything worth learning? Not so much, apparently, as--after a halftime of 21 years--global hostilities resumed. Indeed, the Second World War outdid its predecessor in geography, savagery and technology--so much so that, since 1945, the "War to End All Wars" is regarded almost as quaint.

Tell that to the estimated 37 million military and civilian casualties. And by that I mean killed. Tell that to their families. History is a gauzy lens through which we view the past. Quite apart from the notion that it is written by the victors, I'm unsure we can trust it. We never seem to learn so much as we might from it.

Take the "unsinkable" Titanic. One hundred two years ago this month it went down in 12,000 feet of black and icy Atlantic water. It was a fast ship, and although I doubt its captain was trying on its maiden voyage to secure the fabled Blue Ribbon--an unofficial accolade once awarded the liner that posted the fastest Atlantic crossing time--the fact remains that, for the 2,223 souls aboard, the number of lifeboats was insufficient. More than 1,500 people were lost, with the instant result that the Titanic became something of a cultural touchstone. It's a continuing fascination that has endured since news of the sinking first flashed across the world's telegraph wires. And while the many individual stories remain poignant, spiced as they now are by recovered artifacts, it was the ship itself that some held in their imaginations until--finally--its discovery in 1985.

It took 73 years to find the Titanic. Perhaps you've developed some inkling as to where I'm headed here.

Need I elaborate when referring to the Plane? No--not Amelia Earhart's Lockheed Electra Model 10E. Hers is a mystery we have yet to entirely unravel and, like the Titanic, many remain fixated on the whereabouts of her aircraft. It's an obsession that seems now, somehow...quaint. But it's got nothing on the Plane. Nor can Air France flight 447 quite compare. In June of 2009, this Airbus A330, en route from Rio to Paris, took 228 people down into the drink. At that time it took five days before the first debris was sighted--and it was known, at least generally in a broad ocean, where to search. Much more information came from that aircraft before it was lost. Still, it required nearly two years before the bulk of the wreckage was discovered on the mid-Atlantic sea bed.

You'll notice that, when referring to the Airbus, I did indeed elaborate. That's because there was much more data associated with that crash: To begin with, which sea to scour. But the saga of the Plane is not analogous to flight 447--though an ocean crash is shared--or to Earhart, though the Plane, too, has totally vanished; rather, the Plane, more in common with the Titanic, has laid a disproportionate claim upon the global imagination.

How--in 2014--can a Boeing 777 and 239 people simply disappear from the sky under the watchful, collective eye of all our satellites? It's not that modern planes aren't "uncrashable," but surely--and I'm not calling anyone Shirley--they at the very least must be traceable.

Yet the mystery remains. At present, our best guess is that, somehow, the Plane--nearly 180 degrees off course if, from Kuala Lumpur, it was flying to Beijing--somehow continued aloft on auto-pilot for six or seven hours into the extreme southeast of the Indian Ocean. One hundred eighty degrees? Maybe the analogy here is more accurately another disaster--the 1929 Rose Bowl. In that game, California's star center, Roy Riegals, recovered a Georgia Tech fumble cleanly--on one bounce--and raced 62 yards toward his own end zone. This dashing exploit earned him the lasting nickname "Wrong Way" Roy. After he was stopped by teammate Benny Lom and finally tackled on the Bears' one-yard line, Cal Coach Nibs Price called a quick kick. But the Yellowjackets blocked that punt, and the resulting safety was the deciding margin in their eventual 8-7 victory.

True--that was just a football game, no more than a silly turf war.

I wish the same could be said about the Crimea, but we've been here before. Charge of the Light Brigade, anyone? Of course, there won't be a land war over that territory--we've at least learned this much from history. Instead, there will be international economic sanctions against Russia, which may or may not respond by curtailing its sale of fuel and wheat to Europe.

So there might be an economic war, of sorts. Here's a history lesson the Russians should remember about supply in a time of war: Their winter notwithstanding, they'd be speaking German in Moscow right now had the United States not contributed so much to their effort against the Nazis. What, I wonder, do the Russians think we'll do with our permanent wheat surplus. Who do they think we'll sell all our new-found, newly extractable shale oil to? Is the Russian market strong enough, internally, to absorb their own production--or will they solely sell to the east?

I guess we'll see.

— Joseph Oldenbourg

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POLITICAL FIX

CATHERINE DOE

OROSI CANDIDATES' FORUM SHOWS CLEAR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PARTIES

On March 26, Orosi held a candidates' forum for three offices: the 26th Assembly District, Tulare County Sheriff and Tulare County District Attorney. Everyone participated except for Esther Barajas, R-Visalia. The forum started with the candidates making a brief introduction before questions came from the floor.

Romelia Castillo, the organizer of the event, said, "People wanted to know where the candidates stood so I organized it. We are country people but we want to be educated about who to vote for."

Ms. Castillo's other motivation for organizing the forum was to involve the young people of Orosi. "When I was 18, no one came to the high school to register us to vote or even tell us how. I do remember people coming to our high school in officers' uniforms to recruit for the military." She convinced an Orosi High School Civics teacher to give extra credit to any student who attended the forum. She said about 20 teenagers came to the forum equipped with pads and pens, and ready to listen.

In reference to the assembly district candidates, she said, "You can tell who spoke from the heart and who was a politician. The person who spoke from the heart gave a testimonial of their life and why they wanted to be a voice for the people in Sacramento."

I asked Devon Mathis if Ms. Castillo was possibly talking about him. He said that it might have been either himself or Carlton Jones. "Hey, I've been at the bottom. I spoke about that and about my life." Mr. Mathis said that he is running for the 26th Assembly District because, "the decisions you make affect a lot of people. You will have to make decisions on the fly, where you don't have time to consult your constituents. I've done that. I've had to do that to get all of my soldiers home." Mr. Mathis was a sergeant for ten years in the army and is an Iraq War veteran.

One attendee of the event said, "In my opinion, Derek Thomas did the best. He spoke right after Rudy Mendoza, so he was able to respond to Rudy's answers specifically. Rudy made a point that an increase in minimum wage will hurt small business and lose jobs. Derek responded with 'There goes those scare tactics. That increase goes back into the local economy and will help the families that live paycheck to paycheck.'"

According to Ruben Macareno, D – Farmersville, also a candidate for the 26th Assembly District, Mr. Mendoza said he is a Republican because he believes in pulling himself up from his bootstraps, working hard for what he has, and not relying on handouts. Mr. Macareno responded in his closing statement, "I am a Latino, I come from a small town, I don't like taxes, and I too pulled myself up from my boot straps and I am a Democrat. However, I don't forget who helped me along the way. I didn't do it alone, nobody does. That's not a handout."

In general, the Republican candidates stayed true to their Republican platform while the Democrats adhered to theirs: Democrats supported the High-Speed Rail and increasing the minimum wage. Republicans did not.

As for the sheriff's candidates, Tess Andres, R-Visalia, also running for the 26th Assembly District, said, "I personally prefer Mike Boudreaux' presentation but my husband chose Dave Whaley. Overall, the candidates are all good. It is in the hands of the people. Vox Populi Vox Deus."

About 100 people attended, which is impressive for a forum organized by the inspired vision of one woman in a small farming town. Her next goal is to put on a water rally like the one in Firebaugh that spotlighted the Westside. But for this event, she needs some help. She is asking labor contractors, farmers and packing houses to contact her to organize the rally. "We need to wake the giant up. We need to be heard. Washington DC wants their fresh fruits and vegetables so they better listen."

You can contact her at romeliasr@yahoo.com.

FUNDRAISER EVENT FOR D.A. CANDIDATE RALPH KAELBLE

On Wednesday, April 9, Tazzaria will host a fundraiser social for District Attorney candidate Ralph F. Kaelble at 5:30pm. Restaurant owners James and Michelle Jessen invite local voters to meet Mr. Kaelble and enjoy an intimate hors d'oeuvres dinner in the Cellar at Tazzaria. A minimum donation of $50 is requested. Mr. Kaelble, who is running for Tulare County District Attorney, served as a Tulare County prosecutor for nearly 14 years.

"I am so humbled by the community's overwhelming support – our campaign has come so far because of each and every person who has contributed in some way," commented Mr. Kaelble. "Together we will create change in Tulare County."

In the past week, Mr. Kaelble gained endorsements from Visalia Mayor Steve Nelsen and the Tule River Indian Tribe. He has also earned endorsements from police officers' associations across the county, including the Visalia, Dinuba, Exeter and Lindsay Police Officers' Associations, the Tulare County Deputy Sheriff's Association and the Tulare County Probation Association.

Tazzaria is located at 208 W. Main St. in Visalia. To RSVP to this event or for more information on Mr. Kaelble's campaign, contact Kathy Looper at (559) 303-3029 or go to Ralph@RFKforDA.com.

THREE'S A CHARM – DEMOCRATS NO LONGER HOLD A SUPERMAJORITY

Democrats not only held a majority in California's State Assembly and Senate, but a supermajority. This meant they could pass tax-related legislation or make amendments to the constitution without the input of Republicans. Last year, there was speculation as to whether they would be able to retain their supermajority through the 2014 elections. Well, the suspense is over.

Democrats have mangled many an election, but this time they managed to lose three seats even before the first vote was cast! They held a supermajority by a two-seat margin, but as of Friday, March 28, three Democratic members of the Senate were officially suspended – with pay, of course.

Sen. Rod Wright of Inglewood was convicted of fraud when he made it appear that he had moved into an Inglewood property he owned in order to run in 2008 to represent the 25th Senate District. Sen. Ron Calderon of Montebello was charged with accepting $100,000 in bribes, lavish trips and no-show jobs for his children in exchange for pushing legislation to benefit a hospital engaged in billing fraud and participating in a film industry tax scheme. Sen. Leland Yee was arrested last week and charged with seven felonies, including public corruption and arms trafficking. It's interesting to note that Yee was a strong advocate of gun control and open government. Before getting into politics, Sen. Yee was a child psychologist and got his start in politics by being elected to San Francisco's school board. Comforting.

Republicans would like you to believe that so many Democrats have been arrested because the power went to their heads. I can guarantee you that the power did not go to their heads. Rarely did the Democrats ever use their supermajority to advance their agenda. It's actually just a matter of math. There were 28 (now 25) Democrats and 11 Republicans. It's the nature of the beast that politicians are going to get arrested, and Democrats had a two-thirds greater chance of it happening to them. It will happen to the Republicans also, but not for a long time. There simply aren't enough Republicans in the California legislature to get arrested.

SETTING IT STRAIGHT

The sub-heading on the front page in the March 29 *Visalia Times-Delta* read, "Seven people running to take Conway's 23rd District seat in Assembly." Well that's not quite right, but the writer, David Castellon, tried to correct his mistake further down the article saying it was the 22nd District. Oops, that's not right either. It's actually the 26th Assembly District. He then attributed both Rep. Devin Nunes and Rep. David Valadao to the 21st Congressional District. Rep. Nunes represents the 22nd District. Just inches away from Mr. Castellon's article was a roster put out by the California Secretary of State that listed each district correctly. Apparently, when Mr. Castellon wrote his article he didn't have this roster right in front of him. What he does have is an editor who is not doing the job of editing. If Mr. Castellon is expected to pump articles out every day, he is going to make mistakes. The editor should have his back.

Let me be the first to say that I read everything that Mr. Castellon writes. Well, I have to because he writes almost everything in the *Visalia Times-Delta* that's newsworthy. In fact, anyone who does not read the *Visalia Times-Delta* just isn't going to know what is going on in Visalia.

What I would suggest to Mr. Castellon is that he first send his article to my husband before his employer sends it to Tennessee for layout, or wherever they send our so-called local daily. That way he would have a clean copy every time. Until then, I'll be setting it straight.

OUR FOUNDING FATHERS AND TECHNOLOGY

Looks like Silicon Valley isn't the only innovative hub in California. A group of consultants, software developers, and tech entrepreneurs based in Fresno have developed a forward-looking new website called placeavote.com. It's also the political platform for John P. Catano, R-Fresno, who is running against Rep. Devin Nunes for the 22nd Congressional District.

The idea is that placeavote.com provides constituents a non-partisan forum to review, discuss and vote on legislation that goes before Congress. Your district's representative then votes how the people want, and not according to special interest groups or hidden agendas. There are two local Congressional candidates running who have signed a pledge to vote on the House floor in accordance with placeavote results. Also, any aspiring or current member of Congress can make the same pledge and join placeavote.com.

Party lines are not important to placeavote.com. The strategy is to run under the same party as the incumbent to increase their chances of getting past the primary to the general election. This means that even though Mr. Catano doesn't have a campaign office, or lawn darts, he will still advance to the general election. This is because the 22nd District has a 13-point Republican advantage. The second candidate running under placeavote.com, Job Melton, is facing Rep. Jim Costa in the 16th Congressional District. Mr. Melton, who may or may not actually be a Democrat, is running as a one-- because Rep. Costa is a Democrat--and voter registration favors Democrats by 15 points in the 16th District.

Mr. Catano believes that if the founding fathers had had access to such technology they would have been on board with placeavote.com. They would have realized that a representative democracy is no longer needed because information on the issues is widely available, unlike in the 1780's. If a constituent doesn't want to vote on each piece of legislation then placeavote.com gives "people the ability to delegate their vote to someone else in their community. So if you don't have the time or inclination you can delegate your vote to a friend who does have both of those things." Thus we would morph from a representative democracy to a delegative democracy. "But you can take back your vote from your delegate for any single issue if you like."

According to Luke Davis, one of placeavote.com's founders, "Fresno is a pilot market. Next election, we have people ready to go in S.F., L.A., Austin and NYC. But there are a lot of issues we have to work out in terms of running for office, because we are not politicians."

Q&A: INTERVIEWS WITH CANDIDATES FOR STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 26

Rudy Mendoza

STAFF REPORTS

A first-generation Mexican-American, Rudy Mendoza was born in Exeter in 1975. He picked crops in California's Central Valley until the age of 20, starting his own small business after rising to become a farm manager. As he became increasingly active politically, Rudy was elected to the Woodlake City Council in 2008, and for nearly two years now has served as that town's mayor. Currently, Rudy works as a field representative for Congressman Devin Nunes. He is married, and he and his wife have three children.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

When I first ran for the council in Woodlake, I didn't do it because of a desire to change the world. I ran because I was determined to make a difference in my community. And just so you know, I inherited a nearly bankrupt city with a stagnant economy, a dysfunctional city administration, aged and unmanaged infrastructure, and an unwelcome reputation as a city with more than its fair amount of internal disasters. Today we're actually experiencing a remarkable turnaround, with not only a balanced budget but a small surplus, which we actually guard pretty zealously. We have an all-new and dynamic city administrative team. We're attracting business and breaking ground on an $11 million downtown revitalization project. And we were recently named the fastest-growing community in Tulare County, and the seventh-fastest-growing community in the state of California. Now, my council colleagues and I, we managed this dramatic turn of events in spite of political labels because we worked to fix problems, not politicizing issues. And I'm running for the 26th State Assembly because we desperately need to apply this principle to how we run the state of California.

Rudy Mendoza

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO WORK WITH A STRONG DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY AT THE STATE LEVEL?

Well, as a local elected official, and also through my work in Tulare County sitting as the vice chairman of the Tulare County Association of Governments, I have made it possible to be able to work with people from the other side of the aisle. We delivered half a billion dollars of transportation projects in the county through the Tulare County Association of Governments, and I've done that working with Democrats. We've turned my city from a nearly bankrupt city to one that's thriving and very vibrant today. And that has been accomplished with one Republican and four Democrats.

WHY DID YOU SWITCH PARTIES?

Well, I've always been very conservative. But I'll tell you, when I was old enough to register to vote I was a registered Democrat. However, I always struggled with that because I've been very conservative. And the reason why I became a registered Democrat, just so you know, is I asked around when I was 18 years old, "What is this politics thing? What is this registering to vote thing?" And I was told it's how you affiliate yourself. And I didn't know any better. So I asked

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Derek Thomas

Tulare resident Derek Thomas, 48, is a military veteran who has been employed by the California Department of Corrections as a corrections officer for 27 years. In 2005 and 2006, he was president, then treasurer, of the Tulare Democratic Club. Derek has served on the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Tulare County. Currently, he serves as the Chapter President of the Association of Black Correctional Workers at North Kern and Kern Valley State Prison. Derek and his wife of 24 years have two children.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING?

For one, I've always had a love and passion for politics. And the timing is right. I'm getting ready to retire this year, after 27 years in the Department of Corrections. I knew five years ago that I was going to run for this seat. I've always had a strong desire to serve my community in whatever capacity that was needed. In 2004, 2006, I was a candidate for a seat on the Tulare City Council. But although I did not win, I gained a lot of valuable experience in the political arena. I consider those political losses not as failures, but as stepping stones for my victory that's at hand. Giving back is who I am. It's what I do. I am determined to make this district a better place to live, work and that the doors of opportunity are open to everyone.

Derek Thomas

HOW ARE YOU COMFORTABLE IN SUCH A STRONGLY REPUBLICAN DISTRICT?

You got to give it a try. You got to put one foot in front of the other; you got to fight. You know, I'm not worried about that because I believe people are tired of the same old politics. I think people feel it's time for a change, and I'm hoping I'm that voice for change. I'm not worried about it at all. Being a moderate Democrat doesn't hurt my chances of winning in a red district, because there are some Republicans who will vote strictly on part lines and others who will vote on policy and issues and I believe we can win those votes. Being in law enforcement, the Department of Corrections, for 27 years, I know firsthand the challenges of AB109 and how it will affect public safety in our cities and communities I want all law enforcement and public safety officers to know you have my support. I have never been more hopeful and confident we can win.

HOW ARE YOU DIFFERENT FROM OTHER DEMOCRATS?

You know, I'll leave that up to the

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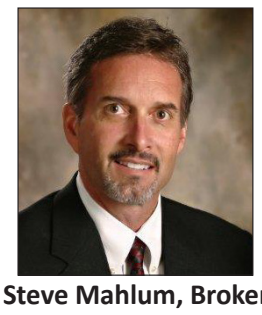

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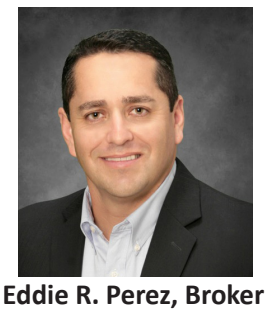

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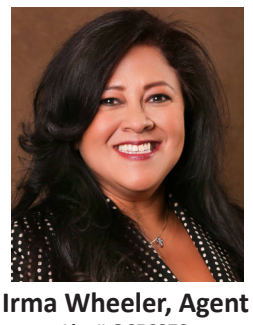

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The information in this report is deemed to be reliable, but cannot be guaranteed. This condition applies generally throughout the report and specifically to square footage calculations.

Revived Tulare County Fair Foundation Off to Strong Start

Friends of the Tulare County Fair Foundation put out a call for community support and the communities listened.

The recent hugely successful fundraiser generated auction items and sponsors and 450 event tickets were sold, according to Tulare County Fair CEO Pamela Fyock. Proceeds will be used to support enhanced educational and fair programs during the Tulare County Fair, Sept. 10-14.

To encourage gifts both big and small, the foundation developed a "Lend A Helping Hand" campaign, with donations starting at just $1.

"We want to have more school children on the fairgrounds for the 2014 fair than ever before," Fyock said. "Children who are already involved in agriculture through 4H or FFA, but also children who need to learn about the industry that fuels the state's economy and feeds the world."

Since the Tulare County Fair put out the call for support, businesses have stepped up to donate landscaping, repairs to the fairgrounds and supplies. Students from Oak Valley Union Elementary School will host a walk-a-thon, to be held Friday, April 4, with half of the proceeds benefiting the foundation. Volunteers are donating time and materials to rebuild the livestock show ring on the fairgrounds.

"The fundraiser event was a huge success and it helped put the fair and the foundation on the right track," Fyock noted. "We are a county rich in agricultural history and we owe it to our youth to educate them. The fair is the perfect place, and the community support we are receiving shows that people care about this fair. "

For information about the Friends of the Tulare County Fair Foundation, call Pamela Fyock, CEO, at 686-4707.

REAL ESTATE PERSPECTIVE

The Drought and Your Back Yard

The Visalia City Council's decision to tighten watering restrictions has been widely reported, which has led to heated debate throughout the community. The revised Stage 4 water emergency rules will take effect on April 17.

Officials are hoping for the new watering regulations to cut water usage by 25%. In comparison, the City of Fresno is continuing with its long-established mandatory watering days (three days per week March 2 – November 30, and one day per week December 1 – March 1)—for now. While the benefits of water conservation in this multi-year drought can't be overstated, residents are left scrambling to find drought-resistant landscaping options to maintain their beloved homes' appearances.

Water regulations in California are nothing new. We are all familiar with restricted-flow showerheads, low-flow toilets and water-efficient dishwashers. The water conservation trend is only gaining further traction with every publicized drought-related article. Synthetic lawn (or artificial turf) is everywhere—advertised on television, radio, Internet and even in some of your neighbors' yards. For those not willing to give up on the real thing, though, Bermuda grass is quickly gaining popularity. Needing significantly less water, Bermuda is now winning over many traditional fescue-lovers.

In this water crusade, some entities are being spared (sort of)—sports fields and other athletic venues will not be subject to all of the regulations, but they still must reduce future water usage by 20%. Other businesses and/or areas with water-sensitive features on their properties can apply to the City of Visalia for special privileges. Homes located in pockets of Tulare County land within the city will not be regulated by any of the controversial watering restrictions—and these properties will certainly have a curb appeal advantage over city homes throughout the summer months. Unfortunately, it seems that residents and homebuilders planting fresh sod or trying to patch/reseed existing lawns will be subject to the watering restrictions.

Many Central Valley homebuilders are voluntarily shifting their standard landscaping to accommodate water conservation or suggesting drought-resistant options for buyers. Some of the alternative groundcovers being used in Tulare County include California Fescue (a bunchgrass), Berkeley Sedge, Bearberry Cotoneaster and Rosemary.

Bottom line, no water is the new norm. Rock and mulch are becoming more prevalent in landscaping. Not surprisingly, the contractors I regularly speak with have mentioned an increase in the construction of new patios and garden walkways in their residential work. Homeowners are removing water-dependent landscaping in favor of more usable drought-proof outdoor spaces. After all, saving water equates to saving money. Some residents will continue to struggle to keep their vegetation healthy and green under these stringent watering policies. Most of us, though, will succumb to the drought and spend our weekends and evenings redesigning and re-landscaping our properties to endure this harsh reality.

William Menke is a Realtor with the Guarantee Real Estate Flex Office. He can be reached at William@Guarantee.com.

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EVER ANGRY, THE SOCK GODS WITHHOLD ONE OF THEIR OWN.

NEXT DEADLINE: APRIL 10

Dinuba's new Transit Center

City of Dinuba to Unveil New Transit Center

STAFF REPORTS

A metal storage building has been transformed into an inviting, comfortable Transit Center, conveniently located near the Emperor Estates senior housing project.

City staff will celebrate the opening of the Transit Center, 180 Merced St., at a ceremony at 10am on Thursday, April 17. Invited guests include city and county transit staff, representatives of the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency, city and regional elected officials, and representatives of the granting agencies that made the project possible.

The project was made possible by combining a variety of funding sources and investing significant staff resources, explained Public Works Director Blanca Beltran. A major component of the budget was a $2.4 million Proposition 1C Infill Infrastructure Grant. Funding was used to develop a 62-unit senior housing project, Emperor Estates, and transform a 4,000-square-foot storage facility into the new Transit Center.

With the exception of the foundation and some structural elements, the metal building was completely reconstructed. The new Transit Center offers a lobby, conference room, space for a future dispatch center, transit staff offices, public restrooms, an outdoor courtyard with benches, decorative lighting and a fountain, custom bus shelters, and a park and ride lot.

The Transit Center will be served by Dinuba Area Regional Transit (DART), Tulare County Area Transit, the city's free trolley service (Jolly Trolley), and the Dinuba Connection, which provides service to Reedley College in partnership with Fresno County Rural Transit Agency. Transfers allow riders to travel to Cutler-Orosi, Visalia, Orange Cove, Parlier, Sanger and Fresno.

"The new Transit Center makes it convenient to reach educational opportunities at Reedley College and the Vocational Training Center, to go to medical appointments, work or shopping," Beltran explained. "We are revitalizing downtown, supporting our seniors and helping residents easily access transportation. It's a huge accomplishment for Dinuba."

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International Motivational Speaker Energizes Networking For Women

CATHERINE DOE

Acclaimed motivation speaker Jewel Diamond Taylor energized the Networking For Women (NFW) Tulare County on Thursday, March 27, at the Vintage Press during their monthly luncheon.

In 1985, Taylor blazed an uncharted trail as one of the first African-American woman to become a motivational speaker.

"I love that this organization is all about support," said Taylor, who believes that businesswomen need to proactively network. "When we get out of our comfort zone there is no telling where you and I will be this time next year. Networking works if you work it."

Thirty years ago, Taylor left a fulltime, full-benefit job in the aerospace industry in the Los Angeles area. "God tapped me on the shoulder and said this is not your calling. This is not why you were born."

She felt that she was being called to make a difference in other people's lives. So she left the security of a well-paying job and has never regretted making that leap of faith. She admits that there are thousands of motivational speakers, but she believes that she owes much of her success to networking. She connects with people on the radio, Internet, selling her books and attending events like these. "Somehow my name came up when NFW needed a speaker. That's networking."

There are people who are considered "fashionistas," but Taylor prefers to be known as a "passionista." What she is passionate about is women. Besides her motivational speaking, she is a life coach and helps women in their personal development and in raising their self-esteem. Through her work, blogs and books she has become known as the "Self-Esteem Doctor." She does not encourage women to fake it in the professional world but rather to "Faith it until you make it."

Before Taylor had speaking engagements outside of Los Angeles County, she called herself a national motivational speaker. And before she had obtained her passport, she called herself an international motivational speaker. Then the phone started ringing from Brazil, the Bahamas, Canada and elsewhere. "I kept having faith that if I persevere doors would open, and they did."

Taylor explained that, "I had to get out of my shyness." She said that women have to learn to extend themselves and overcome being shy. They have to make it happen through confidence and self-esteem. When she does her life coaching, she tells her clients that they need to show up with all their greatness. "Confidence is a real door opener and can make mountains move. People like to do business with people who have confidence."

Another important piece of advice: "When someone compliments you, say thank you."

Networking is not just getting something from other people. "If there is no deposit, there is no return," she said. "If we don't put something in our lives, we can't extract anything." Taylor said you need to ask yourself, "How can I serve someone else? Who can I connect with today? I spell success - S.E.R.V.E."

Taylor believes that the more she serves, the more opportunities open up to her. But women need to be careful not to give until they have nothing left. She said that, "Women need to learn that 'No' is a complete sentence."

There are two types of networking, according to Taylor. One is online, using Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and the other is face-to-face, where you get to know each other's names and "literally get to feel someone's energy." Success is not going to come to you. "I would love to stay home, but in order for me to grow and expand or connect with people I had to get out of my comfort zone."

Jewel Diamond Taylor. Photo by Jeri Burzin

She continued, "We should not always be sitting with the same people when we go to church or keep going to the same grocery store, buying the same food and meeting the same people. Some of you probably have the same hairstyle as you did in high school. Sometimes you need to do something so radical, so different, that the universe takes notice and life begins to respond to your boldness."

There is also a thing called the likability factor, noted Taylor. "If people don't like you then they don't care what the price is. They are not going to want to do business with you. We need to stand out and create a brand for ourselves. Leave a positive impression."

She emphasized that when you have the likability factor, it's amazing what doors will open up. "There are many people who do exactly what you do, so business needs to be intentional. It doesn't matter what your dress size is, or the size of your bank account. What matters is your confidence, your expertise and your integrity."

It's also your joy for life, but she admits that life can be scary. "There are always going to be changes. Just make sure that you are riding with the right kind of people when you are on the rollercoaster of life." She reminded all the attendees that they need to be careful with whom they associate "because association can determine destination." She believes that everyone who has access to you will have an influence on you. "So every once in a while we need to do an inventory with whom we associate and get rid of the emotional vampires. You want to be around women who are alive, women who are purpose-driven, women who believe that life holds something special for them and they are going to get it."

Just a few months ago, Taylor lost her son after a long fight with cancer. But she says, "Nobody wants to hear your pity party. Nobody wants your excuses. Everyone's story is the same." She said that if people have a passion, they need to stop all the excuses and just get started. It will never be the perfect time and no one will ever have all green lights on their path to fulfilling their dream. What women need to do is take action.

"If ten birds are sitting on a wire and five decide to leave, how many birds are left?" she asked the gathering. "The only thing that matters in life when following your dreams are actions, thus, the answer to the riddle is ten."

Taylor ended by saying that everyone in the room was a leader, "but you can't be fragile and you need support. Have people around you who are strong, focused, spiritually grounded and compassionate."

To experience Jewel Diamond Taylor's message online, go to www.donotgiveup.net.

NFW is the first formal networking organization for women in Tulare County, formed in the early 1980s by a group of women who shared a goal of providing a forum for women to engage each other in a personal and professional manner.

Jonna Schengel, PT, and Angela Duran, PT, both with Kaweah Delta Health Care District, will speak at NFW's April meeting. They will address physical issues specific to women, and cover diagnosis, treatment and how to condition yourself to avoid these health problems.

For more information about NFW Tulare County, contact President Beth Bruegman at bbruegman@comcast.net.

KAWEAH DELTA HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

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2014

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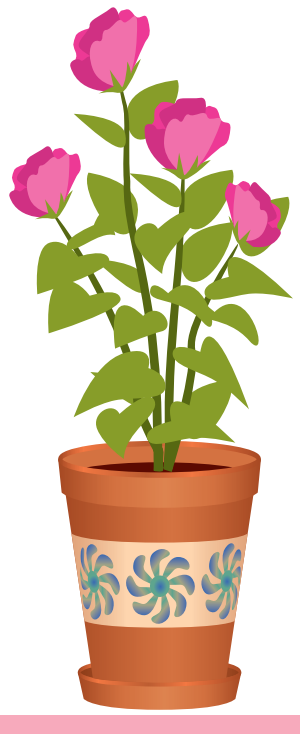

All profits purchase patient care equipment for Kaweah Delta Health Care District.

ELECT AN

HONEST AND HARDWORKING DISTRICT ATTORNEY

I was with the Tulare County District Attorney's Office for thirty years and spent over ten years as the Assistant District Attorney. I have read the letter from Phil Cline supporting Tim Ward. I respect Phil Cline a great deal, but disagree with his endorsement.

Tim Ward and Ralph Kaelble worked directly for me in the District Attorney's Office. I support Ralph Kaelble for the District Attorney position. Ralph Kaelble has been endorsed for the District Attorney position by the Tulare County Sheriff's Association, the Visalia Police Department Association, the Exeter Police Department Association, the Dinuba Police Department Association, the Lindsay Police Department Association, and the Tulare County Probation Department Association. He has also been endorsed by El Centro Mexicano American Latino and the Tule River Tribal Council. **This is the first time in the history of Tulare County that the sitting District Attorney could not obtain the endorsement of the rank and file of the county's law enforcement officers.**

Tim Ward has eliminated any opposition in his own office by firing one Assistant District Attorney and two Supervising District Attorneys. I believe this shows that he is putting politics above the safety and security of the people of Tulare County. This has created an atmosphere of fear in his office where people feel that they have to support him or lose their jobs. I was also dismayed to see Tim Ward attempting to take credit for programs such as the domestic violence programs that were put into place long before he came into office.

I believe that Ralph Kaelble would be an honest and hardworking District Attorney. He will put the safety of the people of Tulare County above any petty political concern. He has the support of law enforcement and the people of Tulare County. I ask that you vote for Ralph Kaelble for Tulare County District Attorney.

Don H. Gallian
RETIRED TULARE COUNTY
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RALPH F. KAELBLE

FOR TULARE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Paid for by Ralph F. Kaelble for Tulare County District Attorney 2014. FPPC Number: 1359192

Hanford Fox

Continued from p. 1

"the roof is fine," Humason said.

He noted that possibly five other Fox Theatres in the state have had ceiling failures. He suggested that, "Older buildings need to be checked out. These things have a shelf life."

The December 1929 grand opening of the Hanford Fox Theatre was big news, dominating local front page newspaper coverage. The theatre was one of more than 900 built that year by William Fox of Fox Theatres.

Plans to build a Fox Theatre in nearby Visalia were announced on January 5, 1929, and the theatre opened the following year. The staff, board and committees of the Visalia Fox are currently double-checking the safety of their 84-year-old theatre. "In 2008, an architectural/engineering firm, which specializes in theatre construction, was hired to do a facility assessment and recommend needed upgrades in an attempt to make the Visalia Fox Theatre a first class performing arts center," said Dana Berry, architect chairperson of the theatre's facility committee. "The building was analyzed for the structural capability of the construction, consistent with the time it was built. The building consists of reinforced concrete structural walls, steel framing with plaster finish for interior walls and ceilings, and steel trusses supporting the roof. Although the structure will require some needed upgrades to be in compliance with today's codes, the building has been found to be structurally safe."

The Visalia Fox Theatre's facility committee consists of two architects, a structural engineer, two general contractors, an electrical engineer, a mechanical contractor, an interior designer, a commercial real estate broker and the theater staff. The committee is currently looking at different aspects of the structure for maintaining a safe building and for making improvements as needed to expand the functionality of the theatre, according to Berry.

"Once the investigation of the ceiling collapse at the Hanford theatre is complete, our committee will immediately study the problem and determine if it applies to the construction of our theatre," he said. "The next step will then be to take immediate action to make any corrections if needed."

Last month, the Hanford Fox Theatre presented sold-out concerts with Merle Haggard and Kenny Rogers. Spring and summer shows have been canceled, including performances by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Prince Controversy Band, Doc's Holiday and the return of James Garner's Johnny Cash tribute show.

Hwy 99

Continued from p. 1

The $45 million announced on March 20 will cover the addition of an extra southbound lane from Tagus Road to Prosperity Avenue. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2018. The northbound part of this segment is still being planned.

"Ninety million was too expensive to do in one phase," added Smalley, explaining why both sides weren't done at once. "The project had to be phased in two pieces. We're still working on plans for the J Street onramp, relocation and design (on the northbound side)."

Smalley believes that the initial $113 million cost estimate will probably be reduced. "If we can delay the auxiliary lanes, we can come down in price." Auxiliary lanes are extra lanes that extend from an onramp to the following offramp, which add to the cost of the project.

"You may have to buy additional land that is now for farming or some other land use," said TCAG Deputy Executive Director Benjamin Kimball.

But landscaping is not expected to be a big part of the cost.

"It's not meant to be a beautification project," said Smalley, who added that about 25% of the vehicles on Highway 99 are trucks. "We need an additional lane for trucks. It's critical. The lifeblood of goods movement in Tulare County is Highway 99 – period."

In addition to adding a third lane, crews will also repave the existing lanes, which is necessary with all the trucks travelling along Highway 99. A fully loaded truck can cause as much wear and tear on a highway as 9,600 cars, according to TCAG Associate Regional Planner Marvin Demmers.

The SR-99 Project, which should be completed in about 13 years at an estimated cost of $444.3 million, is being done in five segments, although one or two of them will be divided to spread out costs.

The first segment, which stretches from the Fresno County line to Betty Drive in Goshen, is expected to open to traffic by the end of summer. The cost of that 12.6-mile section is $96 million.

Construction on the second segment, which stretches four miles from Betty Drive to Caldwell Avenue, began late last year. The cost is $50.3 million and it is expected to open next year.

Segment three, a 2.1-mile section from Caldwell Avenue to Tagus Road will start construction in spring 2016 and cost $25 million.

Segment four, which just received $45 million for its southbound widening last month, runs 4.6 miles from Tagus Road to Prosperity Avenue.

The fifth segment, which stretches 5.1 miles from Prosperity Avenue to Avenue 200, is expected to start the environmental studies process in 2017. Initial cost estimates are $160 million, which may result in the work on this section also being split between southbound and northbound.

Sheriff

Continued from p. 1

gathering to fight gang violence. "We made more changes in the last six months than we have for the past six years."

He said that after analyzing crime data, the deputy work schedule was changed to respond to those times when crime was most frequent. "Now we have a schedule that looks more like a wave instead of a box," he said. "We reduced overtime by $65,000 over the first month."

"I have to disagree with my challenger here," responded Whaley. "Recently, he has reorganized the top echelon of the sheriff's department, spending $180,000 in additional money and adding a position. As sheriff, if I can find $180,000 in the budget, I would have it go to the lower echelon, the deputy on the beat."

He said the department needs more money, noting the 38 unsolved murders in the county and the need for increasing overtime pay.

"You can't run the sheriff's department like you're running a library and close the doors at 5pm and go home," Whaley said. "As sheriff, if I can't get the money I need, I'll take it to the people; I'll take it to the board of supervisors."

> "I'm very disappointed that we're spending more time on a gun raffle when we have so many other issues going on. We have far bigger things to be worried about than a gun raffle."
>
> *— Mike Boudreaux, Tulare County Sheriff*

Boudreaux defended his reorganization of the department, replacing the undersheriff with two assistant sheriffs. "The undersheriff is an outdated style," he said, adding that he studied similar reorganizations in "counties our size."

He said he has the endorsement of all five members of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. "They know I don't have a haphazard style of doing things," he said.

Boudreaux was then asked about the issue of his campaign's gun raffle, which has been called illegal by Whaley and others.

"We took the effort to contact the Fair Political Practices Commission, the Department of Justice in Sacramento," he responded. "We were told we were falling within the scope of the law. I'm very disappointed that we're spending more time on a gun raffle when we have so many other issues going on. We have far bigger things to be worried about than a gun raffle."

Whaley, however, maintained his position when it was his turn to respond. "It's clear in the penal code that the raffle has to be conducted by a nonprofit agency," he said. "I consulted three attorneys before I charged the acting sheriff of Tulare County of a misdemeanor. He must have gotten a hold of different people in the state than I did."

Whaley said he studied the legality of conducting a gun raffle because, "I wanted to do it too."

Whaley responded to a question about technology by saying that, if elected sheriff, the department would make sure it benefitted from technological advancements, but "good basic law enforcement beats all that. Knocking on the door, checking for witnesses. It doesn't always get done anymore."

"Technology changes every 72 hours," said Boudreaux. "We have Internet predators. The crimes of yesterday are not the crimes of today. We have burglars and all they take are a person's ID. They leave the TV."

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Tulare County Summer Nights to Expand for Third Year in a Row

STAFF REPORTS

Youth and families in the communities of Earlimart, Exeter, Ivanhoe and Lindsay will have more recreational options this summer during the weekends thanks to a Tulare County-sponsored program.

Tulare County Summer Night Lights, a program designed to curb violence and other negative activity by keeping selected parks and recreational facilities open during the summer months, will offer activities to youth and families in a total of 12 communities this summer. That number is up from nine last year.

County officials credit the efforts of community organizers and the need for positive activities as reasons for the increase in participation countywide.

"Summer Night Lights would not be a success if it were not for the caring community members of Tulare County," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Phil Cox. "We will continue to partner and support various organizations who continue to make a positive difference."

Chairman Cox initiated the Summer Night Lights program in 2011 and modeled it after a similar program offered in Los Angeles. In its first year, Summer Night Lights was attended by 2,235 people in three communities. By comparison, last year, the program was attended by 11,837 people in nine communities.

Community and city officials who have administered the program say Summer Night Lights has been beneficial to their communities. City of Porterville Parks & Leisure Services Director Donnie Moore said the community provided positive feedback from activities held last summer.

"SNL has provided families a fun, safe and free weekly summer program," Moore said. "We have spread the program to various areas of the city and have had some great community partners to assist with the implementation."

Woodlake City Manager Ramon Lara said the six events helped keep youth active and out of trouble. This year, Woodlake will expand to 11 events.

"The Summer Night Lights program was a success for the community of Woodlake," Lara said. "The local city parks and pools became a destination for kids on Friday nights and cut down on juvenile mischief citywide."

While Woodlake and Porterville have had success with Summer Night Lights, the City of Lindsay will host the program for the first time. City of Lindsay Operations Manager Clint Ashcraft said the McDermont Fieldhouse will be the venue where SNL is held.

"We are fortunate in Lindsay to have such effective partnerships between the city, Lindsay Unified School District, the chamber of commerce, as well as other service organizations with the same purpose of helping our local families and specifically Lindsay kids," Ashcraft said. "I am very excited about the additional support being offered by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors."

Summer Night Lights will also be offered in Alpaugh, Allensworth, Cutler-Orosi, Porterville, Tulare, Visalia and Woodlake. The schedule and a list of activities are currently being planned.

Visalia Police Department Taking Back Unwanted Prescription Drugs April 26th

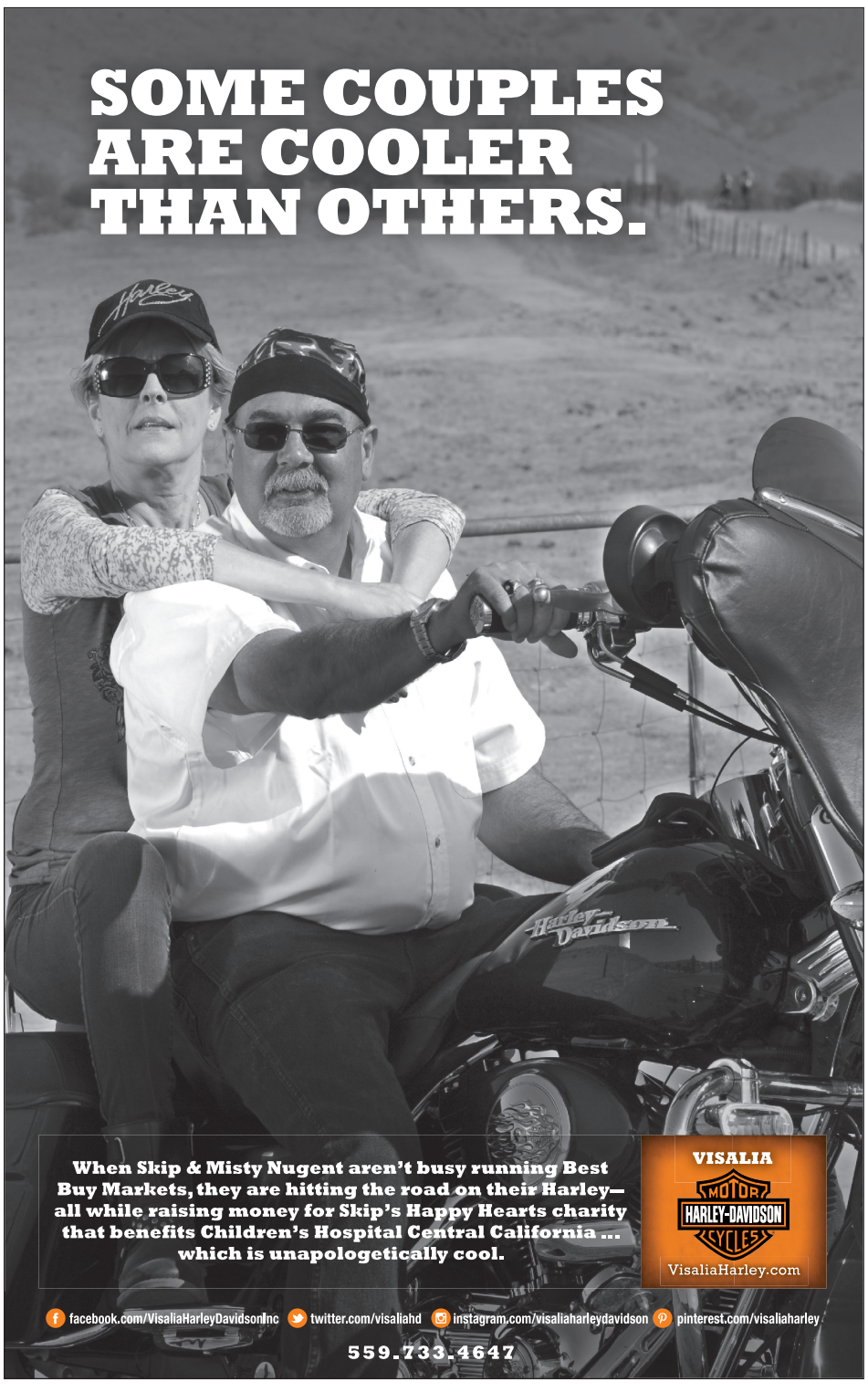
STAFF REPORTS

On April 26 from 10am to 2pm, the Visalia Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its eighth opportunity in three years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your pills for disposal to Visalia Police Department Headquarters at 303 S. Johnson St. (The DEA cannot accept liquids or needles or sharps, only pills or patches.) The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Last October, Americans turned in 324 tons (over 647,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 4,114 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. When those results are combined with what was collected in its seven previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 3.4 million pounds – more than 1,700 tons – of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines – flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash – both pose potential safety and health hazards.

DEA is in the process of approving new regulations that implement the Safe and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an "ultimate user" (a patient or their family member or pet owner) of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the attorney general to accept them. The act also allows the attorney general to authorize long term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain instances.



The Heart Line – Relationship Symbols, Stories and Strategies – Part III

KAY PACKARD

"Truth is not "what is," but the understanding of "what is" opens the door to truth."
— Krishnamurti

Welcome to Part III of this series to understand the God-given symbols in your hands and create more authentic relationships.

Last week, I read the hands of a business owner living on the Central Coast. She seemed quite taken with what I discussed, but I didn't know for sure until… she called her husband over for me to read his hands, too. After about 5 minutes, he gave me the lower lip with a positive head nod. I asked, "Would you like more?" He answered by pushing his palms, face up, closer toward me. After a few more minutes, his wife interrupted and confirmed, "Oh, that's him! Now tell him what you told me about me!"

I'm told my most useful role in reading for couples is being the neutral party who translates the language of love, mapped in the hands, to their mate. I was honored to fulfill her simple request. The three of us then dialoged about the process of planning a mini-vacation. His style is, 'let's go now' and hers is to 'percolate' on the idea. Each Heart Line type has a definite approach to planning for, and bonding, at home and on a trip.

In Part I, you learned about the Hermit Heart Line. In Part II, the Passionate and Big Heart Heart Lines. Hasn't it been helpful to understand your non-negotiable needs in relationship, and more importantly, to make your true preferences known to your partner? This is understanding "what is." This is love!

Today we'll check for The Rational Romantic, along with two other variations of Heart Line configurations.

People with curving Heart Lines exhibit their feelings openly more than those with flat and straight Heart Lines. Straight lines belong to people who are more reserved. They present their feelings reluctantly. The Hermit and the Rational Romantic types have flat Heart Lines. They are less likely to display their emotions outwardly.

The Rational Romantic Heart Line

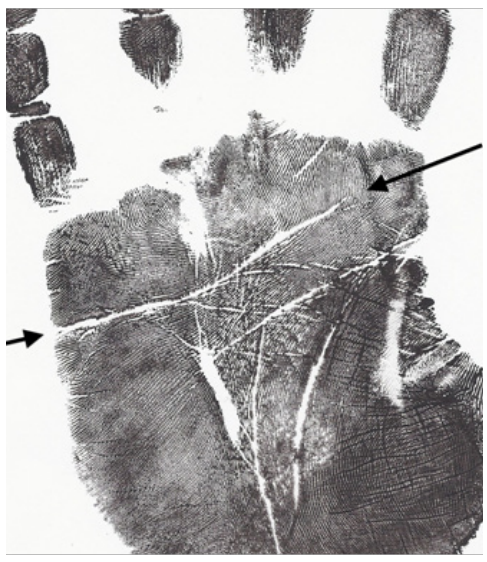


Fig. 1 – Straight, Flat Heart Line; Rational Romantic

is long, flat and straight (Fig. 1).

If you own this Heart Line, you are constantly assessing, analyzing, considering and pondering your own feelings and those of others. You dislike fights because disagreements will give you even more to think, think, think about. Your thoughts swirl around you like the wind.

One of your favorite songs is "How Deep is Your Love?" by the Bee Gees. Meaningful conversations are of utmost importance. Subtle nuances with words and facial expressions can put you in a tailspin of "What did she mean by 'that'?" "Did he mean 'yes' or 'no' when he answered my invitation to go to dinner?"

Your biggest challenge is to minimize your own mental editing. Overly processing feelings comes naturally for the Rational Romantic, and your best trait is consideration. It's very important for you to recognize and respect your own needs and make requests for your needs to be fulfilled. At your best you are considerate and understanding of the thoughts and feelings of others, without losing yourself. Affirmation for balance: While I am thoughtful of the emotional needs of others, I am also aware of and honor my own passions.

In our second example, the Heart Line river system splits into two or three forks. When the line retains the same degree of width, after the split, the owner will easily adapt to the emotional moment of others, whether giddy like Tigger or grumpy like Eeyore of Winnie the Pooh.

In figure 2, the main Heart Line splits into two lines under the middle finger. One fork curves up to the index finger and the lower fork runs straight, also ending under the index finger. In this case three different Heart Line descriptions apply: Hermit, Big Heart and Rational Romantic.

If you see this configuration in your palm, you are considerate and cautious in your connections with others. As long as your non-negotiable need for freedom is recognized and protected, you will be balanced in thought, concern and reflection in relationships, and you can adapt as required to the love style around you. If privacy, loyalty and dependability are needed, with little effort, you can cultivate your Hermit form. If a meaningful conversation is called for, you're all ears. You also have an innate knowing when a hug would be the perfect medicine. Because you can give up your private sanctuary as you over-adapt to the needs of others, your internal push-pull requires balancing between your need for alone time and social time.

Affirmation for balance: I am contemplating romance with a big heart without sacrificing my own heart center.

In our third example, figure 3 shows someone married to her career. The Fate Line (1) starts near the bottom of the palm, climbs up and merges (3) with the Heart Line (2, 4).

If your Fate Line merges with the Heart Line, there is an intense love of work present and you spend countless hours ambitiously engaged with projects. Indulging in your ravenous love of effort makes you happy. Others may describe you as a workaholic, and, yes, there is a strong tendency for extreme responsibility to tasks because accomplishment is a value held near and dear to your heart. You are committed to getting it done with love and zeal! It's best others know not to interfere with your lavish enthusiasm in dedication for your career and projects. However, do ask yourself: At what expense will I get it done? Is a

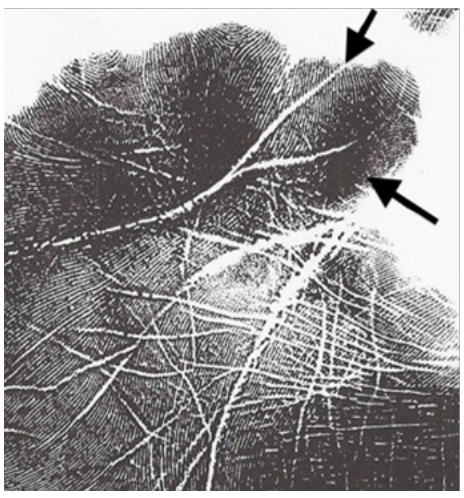


Fig. 2 Heart Line Splits Near the End Adaptable Affections

personal relationship being neglected at the expense of work? Affirmation for balance: I am extending my love of work, projects and tasks to the people in my life.

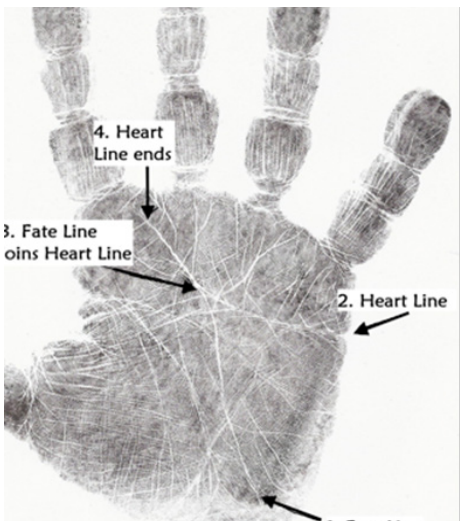


Fig. 3 Non-Negotiable Love of Work

Remember, no Heart Line is better than another. This is about understanding "what is" in order to live in your most natural state, empowered in who you are! Your mates will benefit.

This article is an excerpt from Kay's upcoming book called, "Your Life is in Your Hands." Kay is a Master Hand Analyst and holds a Master of Arts degree in Spiritual Psychology. She teaches people the art and science of Hand Analysis through the American Academy of Hand Analysis. Visit AcademyofHandAnalysis.org.

Free Diabetes Expo and Kidney Education April 26

Tulare County residents are invited to attend a free kidney health education program and diabetes expo on Saturday, April 26, in Visalia.

The event, hosted in partnership with the American Nephrology Nurses' Association, Kaweah Delta Outpatient Specialty Clinics, will provide attendees with a chance to take a kidney disease risk survey, get their body mass index measured, speak with a healthcare professional, and get free educational materials.

The event will take place from 9am to 1:30pm at Kaweah Delta Multiservice Center, 402 W. Acequia Ave. To attend the event, people should pre-register by calling 624-2520 or e-mail eromero@kdhcd.org.

Anyone with diabetes or a family history of diabetes, and anyone with high blood pressure or a family history of high blood pressure should attend.

For more information, visit www.kaweahdelta.org or follow Kaweah Delta on Twitter and Facebook.

Pictured at the March 20 ceremony are (l–r): Danny Little, Visalia Rescue Mission executive director; Alicia Rockwell, Save Mart Supermarkets director of public affairs and communications; Mark Shelton, Valley Business Bank V.P. of Commercial Banking and Visalia Rescue Mission Board Chairman; and Jessica Cavale, Visalia Rescue Mission director of development.

Save Mart CARES Donates $5,000 to Visalia Rescue Mission

STAFF REPORTS

On March 20, the Visalia Rescue Mission received a Save Mart CARES charitable organization grant of $5,000. The grant monies will directly benefit the various programs – soup kitchen, shelter, recovery and Next Steps – of the Visalia Rescue Mission.

Save Mart CARES (community, arts, recreation, education, sports) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization supporting nonprofit charitable groups and programs in the communities in which Save Mart Supermarkets does business, primarily the Central Valley. Requests for charitable funding are reviewed and approved by the Save Mart CARES board of directors.

In addition to the Save Mart CARES charitable organization, Save Mart contributes to local communities through the Save Mart SHARES card program, which provides $4.5 million annually across all Save Mart market areas. The Visalia Rescue Mission is also registered with SHARES and receives about $1,500 quarterly.

The Visalia Rescue Mission is a local non-profit organization that serves the local community by providing a homeless shelter for men, women and children, sleeping on average 120 people each night and serving nearly 500 meals each day.

Hear for Life Warns About Medications that Might Lead to Hearing Loss

STAFF REPORTS

Ototoxic medications are drugs, whether prescription or over-the-counter, that are toxic to the ears. More than 200 recognized ototoxic medications are commonly used, according to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

As a way to make it simpler for consumers to identify the possible ototoxic medications and drugs in their home, the hearing aid dispensers at Hear for Life Hearing Aid Centers published Watch for Hearing Damage from these Medications: The Ototoxic List. Doug Hall's article is adapted from information provided by the clinical audiologists at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the Ototoxic Medications page of WebMD.com, and highlights five classes of medications:

- Salicylates – These are commonly found in common pain relievers such as aspirin and in aspirin-containing medications. Hearing loss and tinnitus can be caused by high daily doses of medications containing salicylates.
- Loop Diuretics – These are often used in the management of certain kidney conditions, heart failure and high blood pressure.
- NSAIDs – Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, often abbreviated NSAIDs, can result in temporary tinnitus and hearing loss in large quantities.
- Aminoglycoside Antibiotics – These are used in the treatment of bacterial infections. The free radicals produced by these medications can lead to inner ear damage.
- Chemotherapy Drugs – Irreversible hearing damage has been noted in many cancer treatment drugs, such as carboplatin, cyclophosphamide, cisplatin and bleomycin.

Any person struggling with hearing problems is urged to contact hearing health care professionals. Drugs are just one of many potential contributing factors to hearing loss. A thorough hearing test and examination of the ear is needed to figure out the precise cause of each person's hearing loss.

Hear For Life Hearing Aid Centers is a family owned and operated business serving Central California's hearing healthcare needs 1986. The company's ten Central Valley locations include centers in Visalia and Tulare. For more information, visit www.thehearingaidcenter.com.

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News in Brief...

SEMPRA, EDISON PARTNER ON LOCAL SOLAR PROJECTS

Sempra U.S. Gas & Power and Consolidated Edison Development announced agreements to partner in five solar projects in California and Nevada – including

the 50-MW Alpaugh 50, 20-MW Alpaugh North and 20-MW White River 1 facilities in Tulare County, and the 20-MW Corcoran 1 facility in Kings County. The renewable power from all of the projects has been sold under long-term contracts.

"We are pleased to partner with Consolidated Edison Development on Sempra U.S. Gas & Power's largest solar project to date as we continue to execute on our strategy to deconsolidate debt and re-invest proceeds in near-term growth opportunities," said Kevin C. Sagara, VP of renewables for Sempra U.S. Gas & Power. "This strategy allows us to continue to diversify our renewables portfolio, supporting our commitment to develop and invest in clean, forward-thinking energy solutions."

WOODSIDE HOMES ANNOUNCES ACQUISITION OF 262 LOTS IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

Woodside Homes has acquired 262 lots in Tulare, where it plans to open a new residential community in mid-2014. The 262 lots, which make up phases 5 through 8 of the Palm Ranch Subdivision, are located on the east side of Tulare and will serve as a follow-up project to Woodside's adjacent Villapaseo community.

"We are building homes in communities that need it the most, like Tulare," said Joel Shine, CEO and chairman of Woodside Homes. "With years of experience in sourcing, acquiring and developing land, we have been consistently building in core markets like the Tulare, Fresno and Visalia areas."

Woodside's Villapaseo community currently offers five floor plans from 2,127 to 3,146 square feet with three to six bedrooms and base prices ranging from $262,000 to $333,000. The community offers spacious homes with single and two-story elevations and features designer-selected colors and appointments.

The community lies within walking distance of Mission Oak High School and within two miles of the College of the Sequoias, which recently opened the Center for Agriculture Science and Technology.

CITY OF HANFORD APPROVES CHEVRON ENERGY SOLUTIONS PROJECT

The Hanford City Council has approved a Chevron Energy Solutions project that is expected to save the city over $30 million in energy costs over its life, or almost $17 million after paying all expenses. The project, which includes 2.3 MW of solar generation, conversion of lighting at city buildings, parks and traffic intersections to energy-efficient LED lighting, and other energy efficiency improvements, is expected to reduce the county's annual energy costs by 35% and eliminate over five million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions annually, or the equivalent of taking approximately 829 cars off the road.

This will be the second Hanford project undertaken by Chevron Energy Solutions. The first was completed and dedicated last year, and is projected to save the city $12 million in energy costs. Construction of this project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

VICE MAYOR WARREN GUBLER TO HOST 'DONUTS AND DISCUSSION'

Visalia Vice Mayor Warren Gubler and Visalia Fire Chief Doug McBee will host "Donuts and Discussion: from 7-8:30am Saturday, April 12, at the Donut Factory Inc., at 3100 N. Demaree St.

This informal gathering allows citizens to address their concerns or ask questions one-on-one with Vice Mayor Gubler. Chief McBee will give an update on the status of the fire station in the southwest quadrant of the city. Drop-ins are welcome at any time.

Gubler also can be reached through 713-4400, then enter 3313, or by email at wgubler@ci.visalia.ca.us.

PC AND EMPLOYMENT CONNECTION TO HOLD JOB FAIR

Porterville College, in conjunction with Employment Connection, is looking for businesses that are hiring for the Second Annual Job Fair from 9am to noon on Tuesday, May 6, in the Porterville College Gymnasium, 100 E. College Ave. Single booths are available at no charge.

If you are a business owner who is hiring or a human resources representative and are interested in being part of this event, call 788-1400 or email Rudy.Roman@edd.ca.gov.

The free event is open to the public. For more information, visit www.portervillecollege.edu.

LOCAL RESTAURANTS RECEIVE AWARDS FOR SAFE FOOD HANDLING PRACTICES

Tulare County restaurants with the highest food inspection ratings are being recognized through the Excellence in Food Safety Awards, and residents can access the list of those top-performing restaurants.

Tulare County Environmental Health Services (TCEH) implemented the Excellence in Food Safety Awards Program in March 2010 to recognize restaurants that have consistent safe food handling practices and achieve a score of 95% or above on three consecutive routine inspections. TCEH recognized 212 Retail Food Facilities for 2013 and the restaurants were named individually at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors meeting on March 25.

"Environmental Health places the utmost importance on recognizing restaurants that practice consistency in safe food handling and receive high marks on inspections," said Nilsa Gonzalez, division manager of Tulare County HHSA Environmental Health. "These restaurateurs have achieved a level of safety that we admire and hope others will emulate."

TCAG ATTENDS THE VALLEY VOICE TRIP IN SACRAMENTO

TCAG joined seven other Valley counties for the "Valley Voice Trip" (catchy name) in Sacramento for two days last month to discuss important transportation related items. The delegates met with various state elected officials and agent representatives. The topics discussed were:

- Transportation Funding
- Transportation Initiative Voter Threshold
- Cap and Trade Funding
- Goods Movement
- San Joaquin Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail
- Water Quality, Supply and Reliability

PORTERVILLE COLLEGE IN THE RUNNING FOR WORKING FAMILIES GRANT

Porterville College was selected as one of five community colleges to be a part of a consortium with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to compete for the Working Families Success Network initiative grant.

The grant awards will be between $70,000 and $100,000 a year for three years. Four out of eight states will be competing for funding. This grant would leverage PC's existing general funding to foster efforts to reduce the economic, academic and social barriers that impede a student's successful transition into a community college and/or the workforce.

TODD HOLMES INSURANCE AGENCY NAMED TOP PRODUCER

Todd Holmes Insurance Agency has been named to the Encompass Insurance "Circle of Success." This honor is awarded to the company's top-producing agencies in the country.

"We value our relationship with Encompass Insurance and are proud to be part of its Circle of Success," said Todd Holmes, agency principal. "As an independent insurance company, Todd Holmes Insurance Agency represents a wide range of insurers. Encompass products and services are well received by our customers -- and our agents are confident when recommending them."

"Encompass couldn't be more proud of the Todd Holmes Agency and its commitment to meeting the insurance needs of its customers," said Tom Ealy, Encompass president. "We regard them as excellent business partners. Recognizing them as a member of our Circle of Success is one way we can thank them for doing business with us."

Todd Holmes Insurance Agency is located at 262 North M Street, Tulare.

LANE FYE CELEBRATES 21ST YEAR AT CENTURY 21 JORDAN-LINK & COMPANY

Steve McFadden, vice-president and general manager of Century 21 Jordan-Link, has honored veteran Visalia real estate agent Lane Fye for 20 years of service to the firm.

"Lane has served us well as our director of community relations for 20 years and is now beginning his 21st with Jordan-Link & Company," said McFadden. "Lane has also taught our Century 21 Real Estate licensing school for more than 18 years. He helped start many of our top agents in their real estate careers."

To honor agents who dedicate 20 years to the company, President and CEO Bill Jordan and McFadden reward them with a lengthy cruise to the destination of their choice. Fye, who is currently teaching "The Principles of California Real Estate," on Tuesday night at the firm's Visalia office, is "looking forward to a cruise to Mexico later this year."

COMCAST HOMETOWN NETWORK TO BROADCAST THREE RAWHIDE GAMES IN 2014

Comcast Hometown Network Channel 104 (CHN), Comcast's regional cable network covering Northern and Central California, announced that it will televise 30 live minor league baseball games from the California League and the Pacific Coast League in 2014. The telecasts will begin on April 10 with the San Jose Giants home opener against the Bakersfield Blaze.

The schedule includes three Visalia Rawhide games, when the team travels to San Jose to play the Giants on May 23 and June 27-28. All three games have 7pm starting times.

Thomas

Continued from p. 4

voters to decide. I can only answer for what I'm standing for. I don't know where they stand on certain issues. I'm a moderate Democrat. As a Democrat, I'm pro-life. I believe a marriage is between a man and a woman. I don't know where they stand on certain national issues. I support the Second Amendment. I believe every law-abiding citizen should have the right to bear arms. I'm financially disciplined. I'm financially conservative, as a Democrat. I don't know where they stand on those issues. And I also support, if Congress ever passes this bill, I support the pathway to citizenship. The Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill with the pathway to citizenship. Those are on the national level. I don't know where they stand on those issues, but they're my platform. I'm the only one that has a platform, and my platform is broad. I'm trying to reach everybody in District 26, I'm trying to represent everyone. I talk about supporting the farming community, the farm laborers. We have serious water challenges facing us. I talk about jobs, how we desperately need jobs in this district. I talk about education. I talk about the challenges of public safety with AB109. I talk about protecting labor rights. I talk about promoting a clean environment, along with renewable energy. So I'm going to stay true to my platform if I'm elected to the State Assembly.

HOW DO YOU THINK GOVERNOR BROWN IS DOING?

He's doing an awesome job. Listen, I don't always agree with everything that Governor Brown has done, but he's got this state back on its feet, back on the road to economic recovery. He's signed two new laws, AB93 and SB90, those help create and promote job growth. We lost over a million jobs a few years ago to the recession. By him signing those two, that helped promote job growth and brought businesses back to California. We gained a million jobs back. I support the governor's 12-point pension reform plan. The state is going to save $55 billion over the next 35 years. He's done a lot of things to get this state back on its feet. Proposition 30, we can't forget Proposition 30. Plus, he put an end to all the furloughs as well. Governor Brown is a savvy politician and is doing an extraordinary job putting California on the road to economic recovery. He is definitely a champion for the people of California.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR VIEWS ON GUNS?

I support four out of the five new gun laws in the state. I support AB48, which makes it illegal to purchase parts necessary to convert guns into assault-style weapons. I support AB58, which allows the Department of Justice to extend the waiting time to purchase a firearm. SB683 I support. People who buy rifles and shotguns must pass a written test or firearm safety test. The other was SB127, in which assault-style weapons should be issued to individuals and not corporations. So I support those four out of the new five gun laws. I have a problem with AB1471. You have two major American gun makers that are going to stop selling new semi-automatic weapons, semi-automatic handguns, in California. One is Smith & Wesson, and the other is Ruger. They're refusing to comply with 1407, and I don't blame them because the new law requires a new or redesigned semi-automatic to have this new thing called a micro stamping which marks bullet casings with a unique code when a gun is fired. Some sheriff's departments and some law enforcement agencies support it and some of them don't support it, but the technology is not available at this time.

THE ACA WILL NOT COVER UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHT ON THAT?

The law is the law. If you are illegal and it's not going to cover you, it's just not going to cover you. But I believe in America no one should be denied access to healthcare. No one should be denied healthcare, but this is going to cause a huge financial strain on states with a large immigrant population. Legal immigrants can apply for a new program under the ACA called basic health plan. It reimburses states for creating their own low-cost health plan. The federal government should modify the basic health plan for undocumented immigrants so that states won't have to be responsible for paying the bill.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON FRACKING?

I'm not familiar too much with fracking, so I can't comment on that.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE WATER BOND INITIATIVE?

California is facing some serious catastrophic drought conditions. And this is going to be a human challenge, as well as an economic challenge, because water is vital to our economy as well as to our livelihood. If there's no water there's no jobs, no agriculture. I think the long-term solution to the problem would be to build more water storage infrastructure. Another important issue about these bonds, this is a major issue that needs to be addressed, so that all California families can continue to have access to safe drinking water. You have a lot of rural communities out there whose water is tainted by a chemical called nitrate. A lot of water advocates and local government leaders feel that this problem can be resolved. So I support the water bond initiatives. I like it because it was done bi-partisan. Both sides got together.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL?

You're talking about SB557, making California home to the first high-speed rail system. I support the governor's vision, because it's what you call investing in the future of California. It's going to create jobs. We're talking 800 miles of track, 24 stations. This bullet train is going to be travelling 225mph; it's going to connect you from San Francisco to Los Angeles in two hours and 45 minutes. I support the governor's vision, but right now I think we need to hit the brakes on this SB557. We have other challenges that have just arisen, especially the water challenges that we have. You know, these water bonds are going to be very expensive. I support it, as long as the high-speed rail system does not encroach upon agriculture land. I'm supporting the farming communities. I know the importance of agriculture and what it means to our economy. Let's keep California moving forward.

Book Drive Collects 6,100 Books to Help Fight Illiteracy in Tulare County

STAFF REPORTS

The ABC "Be Inspired Children's Book Drive" on March 21 was a success thanks to Tulare County residents who donated 6,100 books to Read for Life during the event at College of the Sequoias.

Disney, BC Television, First Book and ABC30 teamed up to donate books to Read for Life. The Tulare County organization helps put books into the hands of children in need to fight illiteracy. The illiteracy rate in Tulare County is close to 32%.

The book drive was staffed by volunteers, including local students, and collected children's books for kids up to 3 years of age.

Read for Life is a family-based literacy program that encourages parents to provide the foundation for reading beginning at birth. Read for Life knows that children from families who read together have a greater potential for success in school. Read for Life is committed to breaking the cycle of illiteracy through early intervention, direct service projects and community awareness.

For more information visit readforlife.org and abc30.com.

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Duran

Continued from p. 1

business, and deals with the public.

He has taken up the cause personally, filing suit against the city and requesting the Tulare County Grand Jury look into the city's practices in 2012. The grand jury conducted a months-long investigation, interviewing multiple residents and city officials before publishing nothing in the year's report.

Duran believes that the investigation had merit, but that the jury may still be looking into other matters.

SUIT AGAINST CITY, COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Duran filed suit in July of 2012 after he was removed from Porterville's Veteran's Park in June of that year. He was passing out sodas and hot dogs, encouraging members of the community to vote in that year's upcoming council elections, according to a court filing.

The suit names the City of Porterville, City Supervisor John Lollis, the Porterville Police Department, Porterville Chief of Police Chuck McMillan, and Sgt. Richard Standridge, the officer who removed him from the park.

During the event, Duran put up signs for the candidates along with American flags. Those were removed as well, he states in the complaint.

In a deposition earlier this week, Duran said, he said it was found that the officer who had removed him mistakenly did so under an old, since-removed, ordinance. The case is still active, he said, but he believes that the City of Porterville will settle with him soon.

Officials with the city declined to comment on the case, citing common procedure for court cases still in litigation.

Duran is also one of the founders of El Centro Mexicano American Latino, an organization that has organized multiple candidate's debates in the City of Porterville and has thrown its endorsement behind multiple candidates for office, Duran included.

Duran says that though he founded the organization, he's not currently steering it.

"I was a founder, but I stepped away from it so there wouldn't be any conflicts of interest," Duran said.

The key to the organization, he said, is to encourage citizens – including Latinos, a group with traditionally low showings during elections – to vote and to tell them that they can foster change in the community.

"The only reason I'm doing this is to let the people know who they're voting for," Duran said. "You need to get involved in the political process."

Duran says that his main goal is to change Porterville for the better.

"I've had a lot of jobs in my time," Duran said. "And I create change."

Mendoza

Continued from p. 1

people around my close circle for some help and they said, "Well, Rudy, you're from Woodlake, you've come from a poor family, you're Hispanic, and the Democrats are for the poor and the underserved and therefore you're a Democrat." So that's how I became a Democrat. But I've worked all my life. I've run businesses, I've signed both sides of a paycheck, I've been very fiscally conservative, and I finally realized that I was a Republican, and I re-registered as a Republican.

WHO ARE YOU BACKING FOR GOVERNOR?

I will tell you I'm not voting for Jerry Brown. Look, I've had the opportunity to meet both Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Kashkari, each of them on a very limited basis, and I guess I'll make up my mind come election day.

COULD YOU ELABORATE SOME ON GUN ISSUES?

Well, the short and simple answer is we don't need any more gun laws. It's unfortunate that the mainstream media publicizes a lot of these crimes that happen throughout our country that are related to the use of guns. But unfortunately what we're not focusing on is the fact that a lot of these crimes are committed by career criminals or people with behavioral issues. Mental health issues. And that's something we should probably be focused on more, the mental health issues, and keeping people from getting into crime early on. That's why I'm a firm believer in early intervention in supporting our youth, whether it's through education or vocational education, because that gives them an opportunity to make something of themselves rather than to go on into lives of crime or seeking opportunities of crime. I am a strong and faithful defender of the Second Amendment rights, and we should not be trying to strip freedoms away from law-abiding gun owners.

THE ACA WILL NOT COVER UNDOCUMENTED PEOPLE. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT?

I don't think that the ACA was ever designed to cover people, health coverage, that were here from other countries illegally. Period.

> "Well, Rudy, you're from Woodlake, you've come from a poor family, you're Hispanic, and the Democrats are for the poor and the underserved, and therefore you're a Democrat. So that's how I became a Democrat."
>
> — *Rudy Mendoza, on becoming a Republican.*

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON FRACKING?

We definitely need to support fracking. I am a strong supporter of the idea of fracking. Fracking technology has been around for a very long time. It's not a new thing. As a matter of fact, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, of the 2,300 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas resources estimated to be in the United States, almost a quarter of it is held in shale rock formations. And over the past decade, energy companies have been able to economically unlock natural gas from shale by combining two established technologies, which are hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. As a result of that, natural gas from shale has grown to about 35% of U.S. gas production during that time. That's important because developing natural gas from shale promises to further enhance the U.S. energy sector, and to help strengthen the local and state economies, and fuel job growth. The natural gas industry, in case you didn't know this, actually invested more than $12 billion in Pennsylvania in 2011, while supporting more than 200,000 jobs across the region. So I think it's definitely worth looking into.

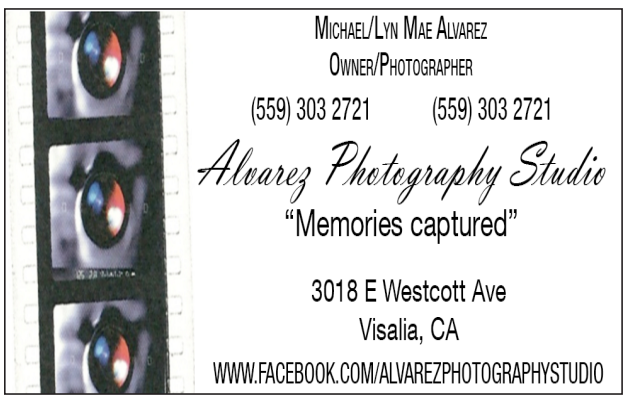
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE WATER BOND INITIATIVE?

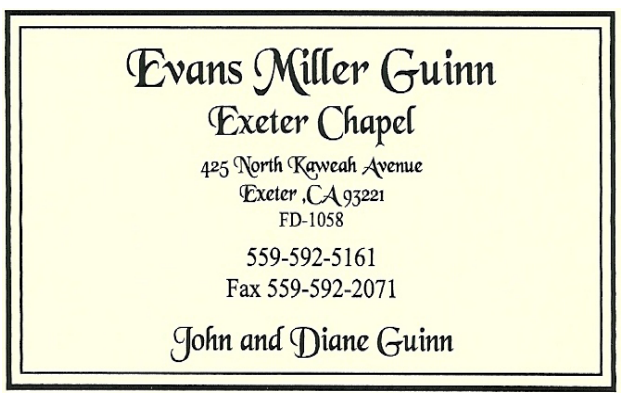
The last time I was actually in Sacramento, I heard that there were as many as 11 proposed water bonds that were going to be up for consideration. Look, I will tell you that I would support a measure that would provide for a consistent and reliable flow of water in the state of California. The one thing that I am not supporting is a pork-filled bill that does very little to fix water policy but adds billions of dollars of taxpayer money into pork projects.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL?

I think the high-speed rail is the biggest joke that has ever been sold to the voters of the state of California. I know that some of my opponents think that high-speed rail is a job creator. But first of all, what was proposed back when it was voted on is totally different than what it is today. As a matter of fact, it just does not pencil out. If you want to look at a program that actually creates jobs, look at the California Jobs First proposal, which the Republican caucus has introduced. It's a Republican caucus transportation project. The California Jobs First plan would actually help us to rebuild California, creating 108,000 new jobs statewide, and growing the economy by up to $140 billion. That would do several things. It would obviously create jobs, grow the economy, it would do wonders to clean up our air quality, and it would strengthen the economic backbone of our state, which is the Highway 99 corridor. As you know, it links the two major ports, in the north, Oakland, and in the south, Long Beach. That is an actual proposal, which I would support, rather than high-speed rail, which is nothing more than a myth.

Business Gallery





Life Near the Mexican Border

JOHN HEID

"You have no rights here!" barked a U.S. Border Patrol agent to a resident of Arivaca, Arizona, who was passing through a Customs and Border Protection checkpoint 23 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border.

This remark confirms a sense of violation of rights that many borderlands residents have when encountering one of the 71 permanent or tactical checkpoints scattered across the southwestern U.S. These off-border sites were condoned by the U.S. Supreme Court more than 40 years ago. Stops were intended to be brief, and limited to verifying residence status. They were to be situated within a reasonable distance from the border. This distance was determined to be 100 miles from any external boundary and today roughly encompasses two-thirds of the U.S. population. People in the southwest call this region the "constitution-free zone."

Arivaca, a community of roughly 700 people, is situated 11 miles north of the U.S.-Mexico border and within 30 miles of three Border Patrol checkpoints. There is no way out of town without having to pass through one. This rural community boasts the "oldest standing school house in Arizona," built in 1879. Arivaca was established during the silver mining rush of the mid-late 1800's. Today its population is a multicultural mix of cattle ranchers, artists, retirees, many of them school teachers, and local service workers. There is a general store, one bar, one Catholic church and one Baptist church as well as a coffee shop, public library, a handful of small businesses and a post office. Arivaca is quintessential bucolic small-town U.S.A.

Today, however, Arivaca finds itself in the heart of a migration corridor as a result of U.S. border enforcement policy that has funneled migrant-travelers into harsher, more remote desert terrain. Over the last two decades, residents have witnessed the human toll of this policy. Now finding the bodies of deceased migrants in the arroyos around town is not a rare event. Residents have also seen a marked increase in the number of people walking around and through town. Usually these travelers are exhausted, hungry and many are in urgent need of medical care.

While Arivacans do not necessarily agree with the current immigration policy, the common response to migrants has been to offer food and water as they pass through. What has caused resentment, however, has been the militarization of their community in response to this flow of migrants. The influx of Border Patrol agents with their helicopters, drones, surveillance towers, ground sensors and checkpoints has substantially altered the lives of every Arivacan. Many say they do not feel safer for this intrusion into their lives. In fact, people feel less secure. Arivacans say they are living in a war zone and they are not atypical of the many U.S. communities near the Mexican border.

Two years ago, a handful of community members came together to share their reactions to the militarization foisted upon them. A grassroots organization formed, "People Helping People" (phparivaca@gmail.com). Their mantra: "People helping people in the border zone, restoring peace and justice in the borderlands." Soon after, the group opened a volunteer-staffed Humanitarian Aid Office on Main Street, across from the general store and bar. Residents now had a place to gather and share stories and ideas as well as to offer aid to those traveling through.

As people listened to one another, they discovered a common sense of the negative impact Border Patrol's presence was having on their daily lives and their community. Checkpoints became a focus. Many had experienced harassment, racial profiling and unwarranted queries and searches by agents at the checkpoints. They noted the loss of business in town and a decline in real estate values. They realized that their beloved community, Arivaca, once a popular tourist attraction, had come to be perceived as a dangerous place to visit. After all, people now have to cross through a BP checkpoint to enter town from any direction.

Conversation led to action. Last July, a campaign focusing on the most heavily used checkpoint began to take shape. After extensive meetings, a petition to close the seven-year-old "temporary" checkpoint was initiated. More than a third of the community signed on, including 11 local small business owners. Hundreds of signatures were also received from people who live in the region.

On December 8, 2013, Border Patrol Sector Chief Manuel Padilla Jr. was invited to receive the petition at the checkpoint. When residents arrived, they did not find Mr. Padilla, but rather a closed checkpoint. A lively "family friendly" rally ensued. Arivacans celebrated a brief moment of an interrogation-free highway but, as importantly, the community celebrated their coming out to recover some measure of voice in their lives. The posters that day dramatized Arivaca's spirit: "Checkpoints Divide Us," "Do You Feel Safer?" "Make checkpoints a thing of the past." A four-year-old was seen toting around one that simply said: "Has any checkpoint, anywhere, made this a better world?"

"People Helping People" was on the move.

Next, residents requested a meeting with Mr. Padilla within 30 days to address their concerns. When a month passed without reply, a vigil was held at the Border Patrol headquarters in Tucson to announce the establishment of a citizen monitoring of the checkpoint to document harassment and violation of rights. Within weeks, Mr. Padilla responded saying the checkpoint would remain open. Period.

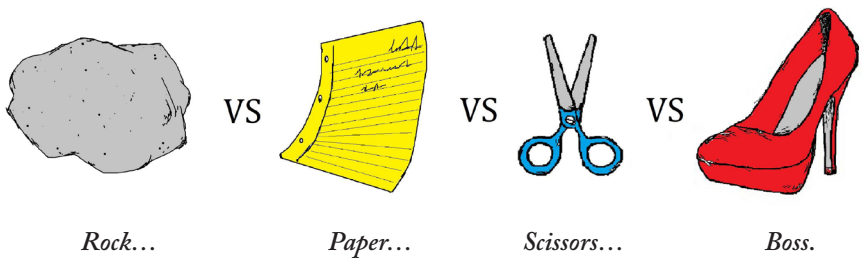
On February 26, the inaugural observation of the checkpoint began. Three dozen residents and supporters turned out—and at least as many Border Patrol agents and sheriff's deputies. Six Arivacans took their positions with cameras and clipboards in hand. The lines of creative tension were drawn. While arrests were threatened, none occurred. The community held forth and plans to continue the monitoring until the checkpoint is closed.

The long-term vision is an end to all suffering and death in the desert, an end to all border militarization, humane immigration policy, and a restoration of authentic security to Arivaca and the entire borderlands for residents and visitors alike. After all, "Our communities are not war zones!"

John Heid is a member of the Rose of the Desert community in Tucson.

Black Tie

ALEX OLDENBOURG



Spring is in the air.

Veterans Job and Resource Fair on April 10th

JOE WRIGHT

Mark Your Calendars! The Kings County Veterans Employment Committee is once again hosting a Job and Resource Fair for veterans, military, National Guard, reservists and their dependents and survivors. This year's fair will be held on April 10 at West Hills College in Lemoore and will run from 9am to 2pm.

The event is a rare opportunity to meet with employers who are ready to hire, and public and private agencies eager to help with training and other services. In one easy location, veterans will learn about the variety of options available to them, including career, training and education opportunities.

Whether you are a veteran seeking a new career or are looking for a first job since returning from the military, you are invited to attend. Bring copies of your resume. If you don't have one, there will be assistance available in putting one together. Veterans possess a wide variety of outstanding qualities including experience, maturity, leadership and loyalty, making them ideal candidates for job openings. Employers and resource providers can contact James Bradford at (559) 852-2151 or by email at james.bradford@edd.ca.gov for more information. The fair is free and open to all.

The Kings County Veterans Service Office issues Veteran ID cards to honorably discharged veterans. Contact me if you would like to receive periodic veteran's information by email. There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can get information on the web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office webpage at www.countyofkings.com.

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to: Veterans Service Office, 1400 W. Lacey Blvd., Hanford, CA 93230; call 852-2669; or e-mail joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us.

Succession Politics

Here in the U.S. and specifically Tulare County, "We the People" expect to have a voice in who our officials are. The idea of "succession politics" simply does not make sense in our local government.

Tim Ward was merely "appointed" two years ago -- picked for "succession" by his former boss, Phil Cline, who did what he wanted in that office for 20 years. When the Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Ward it was because they where not presented with any other names to choose from. So naturally, they ratified Mr. Ward as the replacement District Attorney.

Now, however, "We the People" do have a choice and that choice takes place when you vote. We can use our voice. We can vote for the right candidate for DA -- not just the guy who Phil Cline chose to carry on his legacy.

Do the right thing- Vote for Ralph F. Kaelble.

Dale Looper
Visalia, CA

It's Time for a Control-Z

I find it strange that so many of the people who initially "endorsed" Tim Ward for District Attorney -- sight unseen - quickly (but privately) regret their endorsement after they meet him in person.

These same folks are much more impressed with the other candidate.

I think it's time for a "Control-Z" command on the Keyboard of Life, perhaps.

Let's not make a big mistake when we vote on June 3rd.

There's no "undo" after that, I'm afraid.

Jose Verduzco
Ivanhoe, CA

Happy You're Back

Just wanted you to know how happy I am that the Valley Voice is back. You seem to give us more info than the *T-D*. Is there any more news on Sequoia Mall and future tenants?

Melissa

Editor's Response: *The developer, David Paynter, put a 14.4% down payment on $10,750,000 when the Sequoia Mall was offered on a short sale. He financed $9,200,000 using two different sources. Though he has done good work in the past on revitalizing old developments, this purchase looks like speculation on a mall that at one time was listed at $30 million. It does not appear that Sequoia Mall will be as lucky as his other developments.*

Visalia PD Joins Crackdown on Texting and Cell Use Behind the Wheel

As part of April's Distracted Driving Awareness Month campaign, the Visalia Police Department will be joining with over 200 other local law enforcement agencies and the California Highway Patrol in a month-long "zero tolerance" enforcement and education campaign to curb those texting or operating hand-held cell phones while driving.

Officers will be on alert throughout the month for those who break the cell phone laws and place themselves and others in danger. Special high-visibility enforcement operations to cite cell phone violators will take place on April 3, 8, 17 and 22.

The increased enforcement and education aims to persuade drivers to recognize the dangers of distracted driving and reduce the number of people impacted by this perilous behavior. The "It's Not Worth It!" theme emphasizes that a phone call or text isn't worth a hefty fine or a collision. The current minimum ticket cost is $161, with subsequent tickets costing at least $281.

Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. In addition, studies show that texting while driving can delay a driver's reaction time just as severely as having a blood alcohol content of a legally drunk driver. According to research, sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds. Even a three second glance at freeway speeds means a driver has traveled the distance of a football field.

Cub Scout Pack 3300 Receives Tiger Badges

St. Paul's School Cub Scout Pack 3300, in the Valley Voice office, just after receiving their Tiger Badges. (l-r): Kyle Back, Sean Hayden, Colin Horton, Lucas Lima, Michael Weaver.

TC Farm Bureau Calendar Art Contest Winners

The winners of the Tulare County Farm Bureau's Calendar Art Contest. Back row (l-r): Trenton Clardy, David Hernandez, Katie Pfaff, Carlos Renteria, Maria Sanchez, Francisco Fernandez, Karina Arenivaz Front row (l-r): Mercedes Oldenbourg, Aleiah Joyce Yoro, Catricia Alvarez, Alicia Gomez-Ortiz, Kaelyn Syrdahl, Jailene Arcila-Mendoza, Madelynn Mendoza

AAUW Book Sale Starts after Easter

It's that time of year again for the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Book Sale. Bucking all the trends, this sale continues to grow in popularity. The sale this year is from April 24 to May 1 at the Sequoia Mall during normal mall hours, 10:00am – 8:30pm. Part of their success can be attributed to the fact that there is no longer a national book seller in Visalia. Linda's books, on Houston and Ben Maddox, is a family-run store that sells used books, new releases and books by local authors. They can also order any book you want. But from Thursday to Thursday, the AAUW used book sale lets you browse through thousands of books that only cost one or two dollars.

Last October, the AAUW raised over $19,000. Whereas the AAUW is a national and a statewide organization, all the money raised stays local. Last year, the organization awarded scholarships to 11 students attending College of the Sequoias. Although this is a women's organization, men are welcome to join and the scholarships are given to women and men. Last year, five men received a scholarship. The total amount given was $25,000 with each recipient receiving awards from $500-$3,500. The students were pursuing such majors as accounting, agriculture, art, speech pathology, pharmacy, business, education and psychology.

The AAUW also donates money for Tech Trek, a science and math camp for 8th grade girls at Fresno State, and Expanding Horizons, a day at COS for elementary school-age girls.

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Further details may be easily obtained by calling the phone number listed above and asking for the Easy As 1, 2, 3 Operator.

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Valley Voice
Valley Scene

Special Promotions Highlight Rawhide's First Homestand of 2014

The wait is over... baseball is back, and so are the Visalia Rawhide. Tulare County's only professional sports team begins its 2014 season on Thursday, April 3, at 7pm against the Stockton Ports (affiliates of the Oakland Athletics). Opening Night is presented by Sequoia Beverage.

Visalia Rawhide Manager Robby Hammock

The opener kicks off a full week of baseball at Rawhide Ballpark. Friday, April 4, will be a Fun-Filled Friday and Visalia Youth Softball Night, with first pitch at 7pm. The Rawhide and Ports will continue the series on Saturday, April 5 at 7pm at the first All-American Saturday of the season, where retired and active military can purchase a half-price ticket with their military ID. Also, everyone will receive half-off their beer or soda with the purchase a Rawhide souvenir Boot Mug. The Hot Corner Grill will be firing up barbequed meats from Glick's Meat Market. (The Rawhide will wear patriotic American Flag jerseys each Saturday.)

Sunday, April 6, will be a Family Fun Sunday with a 1pm start, sponsored by Carl's Jr. and Stauffer's. It will also be a Bark in the Park day, as friendly canines are welcome on the grass Pasture with a $3 Pooch Pass. The day will serve as a fundraiser for Tulare County Animal Control. There'll be free animal face-painting for kids, and all Kids Club members will be able to run the bases after the game.

On Monday, April 7th, the Rawhide begin a three-game series with the Modesto Nuts (Colorado Rockies affiliate) at 1pm, and continue the tradition of Make a Difference Mondays. Those bringing $5 worth of school supplies to donate at the ticket window, will receive a free ticket to the game. Immediately following the game, Redwood High School will battle Mt. Whitney in a "baseball edition" of the Cowhide Game.

Tuesday, April 8, with a 6pm start, will mark the return of 2 for Tuesdays presented by Chevron-Texaco, with 2-for-1 vouchers at local participating Chevron-Texaco stations redeemable it at Rawhide ticket windows. Those who "Like" the Rawhide on Facebook can help celebrate Visalia's 250th Major League alumnus with $2.50 tickets. There will also be $2.50 concession stand specials, $2.50 retro Visalia team card sets, and discounts on retro Visalia team shirts in the General Store.

The opening homestand concludes

Continued on p. 18 »

Taylor

Vignola

Raniolo

D'Agostino

The Great Guitars to Perform at Visalia Fox Theatre

STAFF REPORTS

Bringing together four of the leading acoustic guitarists of their generation, The Great Guitars, featuring Martin Taylor, Frank Vignola, Vinny Raniolo and Peppino D'Agostino, continues the guitar supergroup tradition. Taylor, who replaced Herb Ellis in the original Great Guitars in the 1980s, and toured as part of the group alongside the legendary Barney Kessel and Charlie Byrd, is now carrying the guitar group tradition forward into the 21st Century with the addition of jazz guitarist Frank Vignola, fast-rising player Vinny Raniolo and Italian acoustic guitarist Peppino D'Agostino.

The Great Guitars will perform a 7:30pm show at the Visalia Fox Theatre on Tuesday, April 15, as part of its current tour.

Combining Taylor's award-winning virtuosic finger style with Vignola's jaw-dropping technique, Raniolo's energetic playing and D'Agostino's classical-inspired artistry, the evening features solo, duet, trio and quartet performances by four acknowledged masters of the acoustic guitar. Together they have worked with artists ranging from Tommy Emmanuel and David Grisman, to Donald Fagen and Wynton Marsalis, and will present an evening of virtuosity, emotion, humor and musical fireworks.

Pat Metheny calls Taylor, who is recognized as one of the world's foremost exponents of solo fingerstyle jazz guitar playing, "one of the most awesome solo guitar players in the history of the instrument," while Jeff Beck says, "he out-shreds all of us…I've never seen anything like it."

Vignola is one of the most accomplished, multi-dimensional players performing today. Les Paul added him to his "Five Most Admired Guitar List" for the Wall Street Journal, while the New York Times deemed Vignola as "one of the brightest guitar stars."

Continued on p. 23 »

Symphony Features Dulcimer in Last Concert of Season

DONNA OROZCO

The beautiful Americana tones of the dulcimer will contrast with the huge orchestral sounds of Berlioz when the Tulare County Symphony presents its last concert of the season at 7:30pm on Saturday, April 12, at the Visalia Fox Theatre.

The dulcimer is not an instrument you normally hear with an orchestra, but it is included in "Blackberry Winter," by contemporary composer Conni Ellisor. Stephen Seifert, who is featured on the Nashville Chamber Orchestra's recording of the piece, will be the soloist at the concert.

Dulcimer Soloist Stephen Seifert

The dulcimer has only three or four strings, and the player usually lays it flat on his lap and plucks or strums the strings with the right hand, while fretting with the left.

The term "blackberry winter" is a colloquial expression used in the South and Midwest, referring to a cold snap that often occurs in late spring when the blackberries are in bloom. Ellisor, a violinist trained at Julliard, is known for marrying non-classical traditions and classical themes. The piece, which uses only string instruments, generated widespread NPR airplay and was featured on "All Things Considered."

The composer is said to provide the sound that has been missing from American music since the end of Aaron Copland's career.

The other piece on the program is as different as can be. Berlioz' "Symphonie Fantastique" calls for over 90 instruments (although the orchestra will only use 80), including two harps, two tubas and four bassoons. The piece transitions from dreamy melancholy to upsurges of aimless joy and delirious passion, with outbursts of fury and jealousy.

Berlioz wrote the symphony to express his unrequited love for an Irish actress, Harriet Smithson. It describes his obsession and dreams, tantrums and moments of tenderness and visions of murder, ecstasy and despair.

Smithson did not hear the piece until several years after it was written,

Continued on p. 23 »

High Sierra Jazz Band

Jazzaffair Brings Top Dixieland Bands to Three Rivers April 11-13

Thirteen of the best Dixieland bands and musicians in the country will gather April 11-13 in Three Rivers for the 41st annual Jazzaffair, reports John "Rusty" Crain, Jazzaffair director. Arguably, Jazzaffair is the oldest festival west of the Mississippi, beating out Sacramento's great festival by a few days.

High Sierra Jazz Band, based in Three Rivers, is the host band, as it has been for all 41 years. High Sierra has recently entertained traditional jazz aficionados in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Arizona and California, and has been playing on a cruise ship to South America, returning just in time for Jazzaffair.

New to the festival this year is High Street Band from Boise. The band is known for its colorful "zoot suit" attire and high-energy style and music. Two returning favorites are Cornet Chop Suey from St. Louis, and Night Blooming Jazzmen from Claremont. Their leader, Chet Jaeger, is an 89-year-old trumpet player who still blows a mean horn.

An up-and-coming local band is the Reedley River Rats from Reedley High School. They are a featured band on Saturday. Another local favorite, from Fresno, is Blue Street. One of the country's great clarinet musicians, Bob Draga from New Orleans, will sit in with all the bands as the guest musician. The band roster also includes: Titan Hot Seven, Oceanside; Tom Rigney and Flambeau, San Francisco; Wally's Warehouse Waifs, Otisville, Michigan; Jerry Krahn, Nashville; Ivory and Gold, Mystic, Connecticut; and Au Brothers with Howard Miyata, Monterey.

Performances begin Friday at 2:45pm and run until 10:30pm. On

Continued on p. 23 »

Tevye (Chris Shepard) asks God, "What could I do?"

'Fiddler' Returns to Lindsay Theatre After 25 Years

STAFF REPORTS

A quarter century after its initial run, "Fiddler on the Roof" is returning to the Lindsay stage.

The Lindsay Community Theater first presented 'Fiddler' in the spring of 1989, and now it will present its 25th anniversary show. Many of the actors who appeared in the original are returning to the stage for this production.

"Fiddler on the Roof" is the most successful show ever presented at the Lindsay Theater, packing the house for every performance. The 1989 production featured 57 cast members, with music by Richard Robinson and a small orchestra. This time, the cast has 59 members, and music will again be provided by Robinson, but since he now lives in Texas, his music will be presented digitally with only a few live musicians.

Returning members of the original cast include: Bill Butler (Rabbi), Steve Boles (Nachum the beggar), Jan Owens (Avrahm), and (villagers) Rhonda Medders, Mary Ann Owens, Shannon Owens and Jim Kliegl.

Fiddler is set in the small Jewish village of Anatevka, Russia. It is the story of Tevye (Chris Shepard) and the troubles he has marrying off his daughters. He and his wife, Golde (Kami Whitten), are blessed with five daughters, but are very poor. Yente (Cheryl Cook) the matchmaker is having trouble finding matches for the older girls, Tzeitel (Ashley Brown), Hodel (Anna Moore), and Chava (Ginger Piersol). The two younger daughters, Shprintze (Issys Baeza) and Bielke (Sophie Buotte), are still too young to worry about yet. The trouble starts when Motel, the tailor (Jake Lomeli) wants to marry Tzeitel, but Tevye makes a bargain with the butcher, Lazar Wolfe (Ron Fleming).

The current show runs April 4, 5, 11, and 12 at 7:30pm, and April 6 and 13 at 2pm. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students. Reserved seating only. Tickets are available at lindsaycommunitytheater.com. The Lindsay Community Theater is located at 190 N. Elmwood, Lindsay. For more information, call 284-2223.

Porterville Rotary Spring Ball to Honor Military Heroes

The Rotary Club of Porterville (Noon Rotary), in conjunction with the Emblem Club #82, Porterville College, Porterville Unified School District, The Porterville Recorder, KTIP Radio and many other area businesses and organizations, is sponsoring the 10th Annual Porterville Rotary Spring Ball.

This year's event will be held Saturday, April 12, at Porterville's Veteran's Memorial Building, 1900 W. Olive, Porterville. Doors open at 5:30pm. The evening's festivities will feature a gourmet dinner, music and dancing to Jim Kusserrow's 24-piece Fabulous Studio Band until 11pm, and many awards and raffle prizes.

The evening will feature singers performing songs from the '30s, '40s, '50s, '60s and '70s. Porterville College sports team members will be in attendance to assure everyone desiring a dance partner has one.

Complimentary parking, the dinner, dessert, other refreshments and an individual "Spring Ball Photo" are all included in the price of the ticket. Trophy awards for Best Dancers, Best Dressed and a King and Queen coronation will highlight the evening's festivities.

The Spring Ball will continue the tradition of honoring veterans of the armed service. As part of the evening's festivities, eligible war era veterans may be recognized by receiving an Honorary High School Diploma from the PUSD Superintendent, Dr. John Snavely. Nominations of deserving veterans, from the community, are welcome.

Tickets are $20 in advance, and $25 at the door, but no one will be denied entry because of inability to pay. Rotarians will cover the cost of any required "complimentary" tickets.

For more information or tickets, call Susan Bring at 539-3170 or Travis Howell at 784-4298.

Rawhide

Continued from p. 17

on Wednesday, April 9, with Weenie Wednesday and a 1pm first pitch. The event features $1 hot dogs (while supplies last) and is a Choices After-School day, with kids and leaders from Choices enjoying the game and celebrating their program's great work in the community.

Visit RawhideBaseball.com for a full game and promotions schedule. Undated voucher ticket plans are available online and at the Rawhide ticket office. Call 732-4433 for more information.

NEXT DEADLINE: 10 APRIL 2014

Singer/Songwriter Kate Nash to Headline Cellar Door on April 16

AARON GOMES

The 2014 Coachella Music Festival will bring Kate Nash to California, where she will also headline an April 16 show at Visalia's Cellar Door.

Born and raised in London, Nash started playing music as a kid, but her creative interests didn't stop there. She studied theater at the BRIT School for Performing Arts and Technology. Nash was contemplating a future as an actor when, after a freak fall down a flight of stairs, she found herself temporarily housebound with a broken leg. To ease her boredom during recovery, the singer's mom bought her an electric guitar and songwriting became her obsession.

After playing a few local gigs, Nash started uploading her music to the Internet. The response was immediate and overwhelming. By spring of 2007, the singer/songwriter had a record deal, and by the summer her debut album, "Made of Bricks," was wreaking havoc on the UK charts. She played the entire UK festival circuit, including Reading and Leeds, and made her TV debut on "Later with Jools Holland."

Not content with dominating the British marketplace, Nash then made her way stateside where "Made of Bricks" came out in January of 2008. Nash supported the release with a string of highly publicized shows that helped sell 175,000 copies of the album.

Kate Nash

Back home, she was being heralded as the new face of British music. She won the Brit Award for British Female Solo Artist, the NME Award for Best Solo Artist, and the Q Award for Breakthrough Artist. So after two years, she went from being an unknown teenage girl writing songs in her bedroom to an arena-filling international pop star.

Los Angeles-based R&B artist D.WING plays the middle slot. Fresno-based songwriter Risa Rodriguez kicks off the night fronting her band, Risa and The Loyal.

Tickets for the 9pm 21+ show are $15, and are available at Ticketweb.com.

Aaron Gomes is the founder and owner/operator of Sound N Vision Foundation, a nonprofit organization that brings indie bands to the area and sponsors local art events.

Music on Main Street Opens with Duggins Citrus Express

The City of Porterville Parks & Leisure Services Department and the Porterville Chamber of Commerce announced the first performance in the 13-week Spring Concert Series for the popular Music on Main Street program. Duggins Citrus Express will take to the Centennial Park gazebo stage on Friday, April 4, from 6-8pm.

Porterville's Music on Main Street concerts happen on Friday evenings at Centennial Park through the month of June. The concerts are free and attendees are invited to bring their lawn chairs, blankets and refreshments. Benches are also available for seating. Centennial Park is located at the corner of Main Street and Cleveland Avenue, directly across from City Hall.

For more information, call the Porterville Chamber at 784-7502. Bands and dance groups interested in performing in the annual spring or fall concerts are asked to call the chamber, as are vendors.

ImagineU to Host Spring Break Art Camps During Spring Break

ImagineU Children's Museum will host a week of art camps during spring break, April 14-17. All camps are offered twice each day: at 10am and at noon. As a result of a grant from the Fresno Regional Foundation, the camps are free for members and the cost has been reduced to $3 for non-members. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 733-5975.

The camp schedule is:

Monday, April 14 - Create Your Own Rabbit Gourd

Children will paint gourds, and the nose, ears and tail will be added to create a rabbit.

Teacher: Toni Best, award-winning gourd and basket artist

Tuesday, April 15 - Watercolor Painting

Children will learn how to transfer an image onto watercolor paper and create special effects. Each painting will be framed for proud display.

Teacher: Kacey Fansett, award-winning watercolorist and instructor

Wednesday, April 16 - Special Arts and Crafts

Children will have a chance to create three artworks: an eggshell mosaic, a spring veggie printing on burlap table runner, and a spin art egg garland.

Teacher: Shannon Larson, art educator, from Garden Street Studio

Thursday, April 17 - Create Your Own Ceramic Art

Children will be shown how to create a ceramic mug, plate or other artwork. Artist Sherley Tucker will then fire and paint them and return them to the Museum for children to pick up.

Teacher: Sherley Tucker, clay artist

ImagineU is located at 700 E. Main St., Visalia. It is open Wednesday through Friday from 10am to 4pm, and Saturday from 12-4pm. Cost is $5 for adults and children 2 and over. Children under 2 are free. For more information, call 733-5975 or visit www.imagineu-museum.com.

America. Photo by Steve Parr.

America to Take Tachi Palace Stage on April 10

America, the band that harmonized its way to the top of the charts on the strength of its signature song "A Horse with No Name," will headline a 7:30pm concert at Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino on Thursday, April 10.

America is best known for 1970s pop hits such as "I Need You," "Ventura Highway," "Don't Cross the River," "Tin Man," "Lonely People" and "Sister Golden Hair." Forty years later, two of the three founding members Gerry Beckley and Dewey Bunnell, are still making music together, touring the world with their timeless sound.

Enjoying massive success early in their career, America won the Grammy for Best New Artist in 1972 and began working with George Martin and Geoff Emerick in 1974. This successful team went on to record seven albums and several Top Ten hits.

America's albums – six certified gold and/or platinum, with their first greatest hits collection, "History," hitting selling more than 4 million copies – displayed a fuller range of the trio's talents than did their singles. Their material encompassed an ambitious artistic swath; from effects-laden rockers to oddball medleys to soul-bearing ballads, America displayed a blend of disparate genres and styles.

Tickets are $35, $45 and $65, and available at tachipalace.com.

Richard Smith

Guitarist Richard Smith to Perform at Exeter Hobbies

Neil's Guitar Pickin' Studio and Exeter Hobbies will present a performance by National Fingerstyle Guitar Champion Richard Smith at 7pm on Friday, April 11, at Exeter Hobbies in Exeter.

Smith's ever-growing repertoire comprises a wide variety of music from classical Bach to Beatles pop. It includes Scott Joplin rags, as well as Sousa marches, Chopin, Mozart, fiddle tunes, jazz standards, and music by Chet Atkins and Jerry Reed.

Smith was elected Thumbpicker of the Year in 2008 and inducted into the National Thumbpickers Hall of Fame in Kentucky in 2009. He is also a recipient of the Golden Thumbpick Award by the Association of Fingerstyle Guitarists in California.

Tickets are $15 presale and $20 at the door. For tickets or more information, call (562) 810-2501 or email info@neilsguitarstudio.com.

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Rodney Carrington to Bring Comedy to Tachi Palace

Rodney Carrington, a comedian, actor and writer who has recorded eight major record label comedy albums selling over three million copies, and who regularly performs to sold-out crowds across the U.S. and Canada, will come to the Tachi Palace Hotel & Casino in Lemoore for a 7:30pm show on Thursday, April 17.

According to Pollstar, Carrington has been one of the top ten highest-grossing touring comedians for the last ten years and among the top four in the last several years. His TV sitcom "Rodney," ran for two seasons on ABC. He co-wrote and co-starred with Toby Keith in the feature film "Beer for My Horses." His CD "Morning Wood" has been certified gold and his "Greatest Hits" has been certified platinum by the RIAA. In 2011, he partnered with the American Country Awards by presenting at their awards show and hosting the American Country New Year's Eve Live show on Fox.

Carrington formed a foundation in 2010 to benefit those who need a helping hand. The Rodney Carrington Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation, is actively evaluating opportunities to support several local and national charities through ongoing events. $2 from each ticket sold for his performances goes toward the foundation to provide support for its objectives.

Rodney Carrington

Tickets are $45, $55 and $85, and available at www.tachipalace.com.

Bronco

Bronco (El Gigante de America) to Appear at Eagle Mountain

Eagle Mountain Casino continues its 2014 concert series with Bronco, also known as "El Gigante de America," who will perform an 8pm show on April 13.

Bronco is from Apodaca in Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Their modern take on the Norteño style in the '80s and '90s helped earn them a number of international hits. Band members José Guadalupe Esparza, Ramiro Delgado, Javier Villareal and José Luís 'Choche' Villareal crafted a sound that paid tribute to the Norteño tradition while incorporating modern instruments like keyboards, as well as a more melodic, pop style with elaborate costumes.

Bronco experienced international fame partly with the help of their international hit "Que no Quede Huella" from their 1989 album, "A Todo Galope," and tours that took them all over Mexico and to the United States, Puerto Rico, Spain, Argentina, Venezuela, Peru and many other countries. The band also acted in the television soap opera "Dos Mujeres un Camino," alongside Erik Estrada, Laura León, Lorena Herrera, Selena Quintanilla and Bibi Gaytán. In addition to acting, they performed the show's opening song.

Grupo Bronco has sold over 10 million albums to date. Their CD "Pura Sangre" earned gold and platinum records in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay, as well as in Mexico. All of Bronco's albums have achieved solid sales in the United States.

After Esparza announced he was going to pursue a solo career in 1997, the group broke up. In 2003, the band members finally announced a return, and later that year, the group was reformed. They intended to use the name Bronco in Mexico again, but had a dispute over the copyrighted band name with their ex-manager, and chose to go by the name El Gigante de America, the name the nickname their public gave them. Despite not being able to sing as Bronco in Mexico, the group still uses the name for international concerts.

In 2012, Villarreal died in Nuevo Leon, and former keyboardist and accordionist Erick Garza was kidnapped and died in Monterrey.

Tickets ($30, $40) are available at www.eaglemtncasino.com, and at the casino gift shop, (800) 903-3353.

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MUSIC

April 3 – 3's A Crowd – 7-10pm
On Thursdays, 3's A Crowd performs at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

April 4 – '70s and Beyond Concert – 5 & 7:30pm
As part of the Porterville College's Cultural Historical Awareness Program, a '70s and Beyond Concert will be held at PC Theater. For information, visit www.portervillecollege.edu/CHAP.

April 4 – Isla View – 8-10pm
Isla View will appear at Farmer's Fury Tasting Room, 358 West D Street, in Lemoore. For information, visit farmersfurywines.com.

April 4 – Mezcal – 9:30pm
Mezcal with A.C. Myles will perform at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ event are $10. For information, visit cellardoor101.com.

April 5 – Terra Bella – 7pm
Terra Bella with special guests David Lasswell and Mehrten Drive will perform at the Visalia Fox Theatre. Tickets and information available at foxvisalia.org.

April 5 – Christy Turpin – 8-10pm
Christy Turpin will appear at Farmer's Fury Tasting Room, 358 West D Street, in Lemoore. For information, visit farmersfurywines.com.

April 5 – Ghosts in Pocket – 8-10pm
SNV presents Ghosts in Pocket and Burning Bridges at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. Tickets for this 21+ event are $5. For information, visit cellardoor101.com.

April 6 – Abba Mania – 7:30pm
The ABBA tribute concert will come to Visalia Fox Theatre. The show has sold out theaters and concert halls internationally since its debut in 1999. Tickets–$29-$45–available by calling 625-1369 or visiting www.foxvisalia.org.

April 9 – David Lasswell and the Rounders – 7-10pm
On Wednesdays, it's KJUG Country Music night and David Lasswell and the Rounders at Crawdaddys Visalia, 333 E. Main St. For information, visit CrawdaddysVisalia.com.

April 11-13 – 41st Annual Jazzaffair
The Sierra Traditional Jazz Club of Three Rivers will hold the 41st Annual Jazzaffair at the Lions Arena. Hot jazz, food booths and four performance venues are featured. Free shuttles will also be available. Bands include High Sierra Jazz Band Host Band, Au Brothers / Howard Miyata, Bob Draga, Cornet Chop Suey, High Street Band, Ivory and Gold, Jerry Krahn, Night Blooming Jazzmen, Reedley River Rats, Titan Hot Seven, Tom Rigney and Flambeau and Wally's Warehouse Waifs. A three-day, all events badge is available for $95. Day badges are also available. For information, visit jazzaffair.info.

April 11 – Marble Fork Band – 6:30-8:30pm
The Marble Fork Band performs at Cafe 210 on the second Friday of each month. The ensemble offers original music featuring a Chapman Stick 10 string instrument, acoustic guitar and percussion. Cafe 210 is located at 210 W. Center, Visalia. For information, 210life.com.

April 11 – Vertical Scratchers – 9:30pm
Vertical Scratchers featuring the members of Caribou, Enon, Brainiac, and Triclops, will perform at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. For information, visit cellardoor101.com.

April 12 – TCSO Season Finale – 7:30pm
Stephen Seifert, who is featured on the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, will be the soloist at the concert. His beautiful Americana tones of the dulcimer will contrast with the huge orchestral sounds of Berlioz when the Tulare County Symphony presents its last concert of the season at the Visalia Fox Theatre. Tickets are $30 to $39.50 at the symphony office, 208 W. Main St., Suite D, Visalia, downstairs in Montgomery Square. Student prices are $10. Tickets are also available at 732-8600 or tularecountysymphony.com.

April 15 – The Great Guitars – 7:30pm
Budweiser Concert Series and the Visalia Fox Theatre present The Great Guitars featuring Martin Taylor, Frank Vignola, Vinny Raniola and Peppino D'Agostino. Tickets from $25 available at foxvisalia.org or by calling 625-1369.

April 16 – Kate Nash – 9pm
Kate Nash, 2014 Coachella Artist, will perform with special guests at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. For information, visit cellardoor101.com.

April 18 – White Glove Service – 9:30pm
White Glove Service will perform at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. For information, visit cellardoor101.com.

April 20 – Nigel Armstrong – 3pm
A Night of Jazz will feature violinist Nigel Armstrong at the Main Street Theatre. For information and tickets, visit threeriversperformingarts.org.

April 25 – Legends of R&B – 8pm
Eagle Mountain Casino presents Legends of R&B Midnight Star, Rose Royce, Club Nouveau and Honey Cone. General admission is $35. For information, visit http://eaglemtncasino.com.

April 25 – Run4Cover – 9pm
Run4Cover will perform at The Cellar Door, 101 W. Main St., Visalia. For information, visit cellardoor101.com.

April 26 – 60s Bandstand Show – 7:30pm
An evening of live entertainment featuring the 60s Bandstand Show will be held at the Lindsay Community Theater, 190 N. Elmwood Ave. The show includes multiple singers and a visual experience on screens featuring hit songs of that era. For information, visit lindsaycommunitytheater.com.

EVENTS

April 4 – Porterville Chamber First Friday Coffee – 7am
Enjoy the aroma of higher profits with the Porterville Chamber featuring breakfast, networking and business information at the Galaxy 9 Theatre, 631 N. Indiana. For Information, visit portervillechamber.org.

April 5 – April 12 – Lindsay Orange Blossom Festival
This 80-year-old celebration includes a week of festivities celebrating Lindsay history, art and culture held throughout the city. Activities include queen and court coronation, mural tours, luncheons, pancake breakfasts, religious services, school presentations, 5k/10k and kids fun runs, theater shows and art exhibits, and concludes with a parade and carnival in Sweet Brier Plaza. For information, visit lindsayorangeblossom.org.

April 5 – Iron Men's Ministry's Big Man's Breakfast – 8-11:30am
The Biggest Men's Breakfast is a celebration of non-denominational Christian brotherhood with over 25 local churches joining with Iron Men from other affiliated churches in California. The event will feature Fresno State football legends Derek and David Carr and will be held in the Dairy Pavillion of the International Ag Center. Autograph opportunities, booths, displays and raffles are featured. For information, contact Brandon Hall at brandon@ironmensministry.com.

April 5 – Ag Crime Prevention Seminar – 7am-3pm
Central Valley, Western Executive Protection is offering a free, daylong Ag Crime Prevention Seminar at the International Agri-Center. A barbecue lunch will be provided, and attendees will be able to visit displays set up by Tulare, Kings and Kern law enforcement, businesses focused on preventing ag crime, the Ag Crimes Unit of the Tulare County District Attorney's Office, Homeland Security and more. For information and to register, call Rocky Pipkin, Western Executive Protection, at 622-8889.

April 5 – Tulare Public Library Used Book Sale – 9am
Friends of the Tulare Public Library's used book sale will now be held in the space originally created for the Library Café. The sale is held on the first Saturday of each month.

April 5 – Walk n Roll – 9am
United Cerebral Palsy of Central California will host a fundraiser for children with special needs in Kings County and South Valley. The walk will begin at Hanford High School. Registration is at 9am with the event at 10am. For information, visit ucpwalknroll.com.

April 5 – CASA' s 19th Annual Blue Ribbon March – 9:30-11:30am
CASA will commemorate the survivors and victims of child abuse on Main Street in Visalia. The March will begin at the corner of Floral and Center streets and continue to the Garden Street Plaza. At the plaza there will be speakers, information booths, face painting, dancing by the Ballet Folklorico Sierra Linda, and refreshments.

April 5 – 75th Anniversary of The Grapes of Wrath – 7pm
The Friends of the Tulare County Library, Visalia Branch, will feature Ron Hughart, author of "The Place Beyond the Dust Bowl" and "Beyond the Dust Bowl with a Pocket Full of Peanuts" at the Visalia library. The event is in honor of the 75th anniversary of the release of John Steinbeck's novel, "The Grapes of Wrath" and is part of an occasional series by the Visalia Times-Delta.

April 8 – Candidate Forum – 7-10am
The Visalia Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Visalians host a public forum at the Lamp Liter Inn. The candidates for district attorney, sheriff and state assembly will be featured. Reservations may be made by calling the chamber at 734-5876.

April 9 – Visalia Senior Center Spring Open House – 11am-3pm
The Visalia Senior Center will have a barbecue lunch, entertainment class exhibitions, door prizes, and information booths about its programs. Tickets are $3.50 for ages 55 and older, and $4.50 for guests. For information call the center at 713-4481.

April 10 – Honor a Hero-Hire A Vet
The Kings County Veterans Employment Committee and West Hills Community College are hosting a job and resource fair focusing on military, veterans, guard, reserves and their dependents at the Lemoore's West Hills College Golden Eagle arena. The event is free and open to all job seekers. Call 852-2151 for vendor information.

April 10 – Business After Hours – 5pm
Exeter True Value, TEZ Plumbing and Exeter Police Dept. Explorers will host the social networking event at 221 E. Pine St. For information, visit exeterchamber.com.

April 11-13 – 14th Annual Central Valley Pizza Festival
Lemoore Chamber of Commerce will host this popular festival at Lemoore City Park. Activities will be highlighted by the 16-slice pizza-decorating contest with cash awards going to the first through third place winners. Additional activities include pizza-eating contests, school drawing contests, carnival and pony rides, puppeteer and pizza Olympics. Food and craft vendors will also be present. For information, visit lemoorechamberofcommerce.com.

April 11 – Hands in the Community Golf Tournament – 12-5pm
Hands in the Community will hold its first annual golf tournament at the Valley Oaks Golf Course, Visalia. A $25,000 cash prize for a hole-in-one will top many other prizes. For information, visit hnconline.org.

April 12 – Round-Up For Hunger – 6:30am
A 5K Run and 2-Mile Walk/Run will be held to benefit the Woodlake Food Pantry. Registration is $24 and includes t-shirts for first 100 entries. Refreshments and award presentations will be given after the race. For information visit WoodlakeKiwanis.com.

VENT CALENDAR

April 12 – Tulare Garden Festival – 10am-2pm
Tulare Kings Master Gardeners will have a display at the festival at the Tulare Outlet Center. For information, visit cetulare.ucdavis.edu and click on Master Gardeners.

April 12 – Jack Ass Mail Run
Mail will be taken by coach from Porterville to Springville. Activities in Springville include Kiddie Land, Civil War re-enactment, music in the park, old-time photo booth and Dutch oven cobbler cookers. An evening dance will be held at Springville Inn. For information, visit jackassmailrun.com.

April 12 – Porterville Rotary Spring Ball – 5:30-11pm
This event, at Porterville's Veteran's Memorial Building, 1900 W. Olive, Porterville, will include dinner, music and dancing to Jim Kusserrow's Fabulous Studio Band, awards and raffle prizes. A special ceremony will honor hometown military heroes and senior volunteers. Tickets are $20 for advanced purchase and $25 at the door. For tickets, call Susan Bring 539-3170 or Travis Howell at 784-4298.

April 12-19 – National Library Week
Tulare Public Library will celebrate National Library Week. They will kick-off a week of activities with "Come Grow with TPL." There will be special activities including stories, crafts, games and speakers throughout the week. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

April 12 – Round-Up For Hunger ¬– 7:15am
Woodlake Kiwanis will host a 5K Run and 2 Mile Walk at Woodlake Botanical Gardens. The event benefits the Woodlake Food Pantry. Registration fee is $25. Register online at woodlakekiwanis.com.

April 13 – SCICON BBQ and Wildflower Festival – 11am-4pm
The Friends of SCICON will host the Annual SCICON Barbecue and Wildflower Festival. The SCICON staff will lead wildflower hikes, bird watching hikes, and nature hikes. The museum, planetarium, observatory and Tree Nursery will be open all day. Natural resource agencies will staff many different displays. Musical groups from local schools will provide live entertainment. A meal is provided by the Friends of SCICON with a traditional deep pit barbecue. The event is free. Meal prices are $10 for adults, $5 for seniors (60 & over) and $5 for children (12 years & under.) For information, call 539-2642.

April 14 – Beit Shalom Seder Dinner – 6pm
Beit Shalom Visalia will hold a Seder featuring all the ritual foods, music, singing and more. Tickets are $18. The Congregation Beit Shalom is located at 115 E. Paseo Ave., Visalia. For information, visit beitshalomvisalia.com.

April 16 – Refresh Leadership Simulcast – 8am
Express Employment will hold a seminar on the principles of leadership at the Neighborhood Church, 5505 W. Riggin, Visalia. The event will be benefit the Visalia Rescue Mission. For information, facebook.com/VRMHOPE.

April 16, 23 & 30 – Lunch For A Cause – 11am
A fundraiser for Relay for Life will be held at Hometown Emporium. Pre-orders, $10, are available by calling 592-1250.

April 17 – Pacific Employers Safety Programs Seminar – 10-11:30am
Pacific Employers and the Tulare-Kings Builders Exchange will host a seminar at the Builders Exchange at 1223 S. Lovers Lane in Visalia. RSVP to Pacific Employers at 733-4256. The mid-morning seminars include refreshments and handouts. For information, visit pacificemployers.com.

April 18 – Lunch 'n' Learn – 12-1:30pm
The Professional Latin American Association will hold a presentation on "Leading Change" as part of its Lunch 'n' Learn Leadership Development Series. The event is held at the KCAO Main Office, 1130 N. 11th Ave., Hanford. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion from the office of Assemblyman Rudy Salas and the Professional Latin American Association. To reserve a seat, email plaakings@yahoo.com or call Carol Hernandez at 482-7515.

April 18-19 – A&W Cruise Nights
Show off your rides at A&W Cruise Nights. On April 18, the event will be at the A&W in Exeter and on April 19 at A&W in downtown Visalia

April 19 – 9th Annual Eggstravaganza – 10am
Visalia Parks and Recreation will present its annual Easter egg hunt with games, activities and an opportunity to meet the bunny himself. The event will be held at Riverway Sports Park's CR Shannon Baseball Complex. Register for the event at liveandplayvisalia.com.

April 20 – Kiwanis Club Easter Pancake Breakfast – 7-10am
The Exeter Kiwanis will hold its pancake breakfast in the Exeter Memorial Building. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at the Exeter Chamber or at the door.

April 23 – Visalia Chamber Business Impact Seminar – 7:30-10am
The Visalia Chamber and Pacific Employers have teamed up to provide required sexual harassment training once a quarter. The seminar will be held at Lamp Liter Restaurant. Reservations are required. For information, call 734-5876.

April 23 – Lunch for a Cause – 11am
Lunch for a Cause will be held at Hometown Emporium in Exeter for $10. Proceeds go to Relay for Life. Lunch will be served until sold out. Preorder by calling 592-1250.

April 24-May 1 – AAUW Springtime Book Sale
AAUW will hold its spring fundraiser in the Sequoia Mall in Visalia. Hours are Monday through Friday 10am-8:30pm; Saturday 10am-7pm; and Sunday 11am-6pm. The money raised goes toward scholarships. For information, call 734-4911.

COMMUNITY

April 8, 22, 20 – Back Country Backpacking in the Sierra's – 7-9pm
College of the Sequoias will offer a Community Education class on preparing for backpacking in the Sierras, capped off by a 3-day weekend, May 2-4, in the Sierras to apply what you've learned. No skills are needed. Inexperienced and experienced welcomed. To register, visit cos.edu/communityed. The class is listed under Travel and Leisure. For registration questions, call Laurel Garver at 687-3201. For information, call instructor Dr. Lionvale at 733-7442.

April 4 – Central Valley Parkinson's Support Group – 10:30am
This meeting will be held in the Pre-School Center of Visalia United Methodist Church, 5200 W. Caldwell.

April 4 – Exeter Garden Club Spring Tea
The annual event will be held at the Exeter Memorial Building. For information, call 592-2919.

April 5 – 19th Annual LifeWALK & Bazaar – 9am
Tulare-Kings Right to Life's LifeWALK & Bizaar will be held at Plaza Park in Visalia. Register at 8:30am for the two-mile walk at 9am. Enjoy music, food, bounce house, tricky-tray raffle and more. Grand prize is a cruise for two. Raise $150 and earn a T-shirt. For information, call 732-5000.

April 7 – Comfort for Kids – 9am-12pm
Held weekly on Tuesdays at Three Rivers Memorial Building, this all-volunteer project meets every year January through April to assemble quilts with matching stuffed animals for children suffering with cancer. This project ends April 29. For information call 561-4043.

April 10 – Hands-On Heroes Awards
First 5 Tulare County will present honor heroes in five categories: health and wellness; behavioral health; early care and education; parent education; and exceptional volunteers. The awards will be presented at the Visalia Holiday Inn. For information, call 622-8650.

April 10 – Valley Oak Garden Club Meeting – 9:30am
The meeting will be held at Heritage Art Gallery. For information, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

April 10 – Tulare Kings Mensa – 5:30pm
Tulare Kings Mensa, the South Valley's high IQ society, will meet at Panera Bread (near Target), 4103 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia, for coffee, bagels, sandwiches and conversation. Prospective members encouraged to attend. For more info, call 280-9774.

April 10 – Visalia Philatelic Society Auction – 6:15pm
Visalia Philatelic Society will meet at the Fellowship Hall of Grace Lutheran Church, 1111 S. Conyer St. For information, call 686-5067 or 734-6353.

April 11-14 – Lifeguard Certification Course
The Visalia Parks and Recreation Department will offer an American Red Cross certification program in lifeguarding, first air, and CPR/AED at the Anthony Community Center. Register online at liveandplayvisalia.com.

April 11 – 'Groovin' for the Grove' Silent Auction – 5:30-8:30pm
This first annual fundraising event for the restoration and preservation of Mooney Grove Park will be held in the Sierra Nevada Ballroom of the Visalia Marriott Hotel and feature a live performance by Dos Okies. There will also be a no-host bar. For more information, call 329-4590, 736-7469 or 300-7552.

April 11 – Fast Forward Families: An Anthropology of the 21st Century – 7-8pm
Porterville College Cultural Historical Awareness Program will hold a multi-media presentation by Dr. Jan English-Lueck, associate dean, College of Social Sciences, San Jose State University in the Porterville College Theater. For information, visit portervillecollege.edu/CHAP.

April 11 – 55+ Rocks Monthly Speaker Series – 11:30am-12pm
The Visalia Senior Center presents "Avoiding Falls" as part of its continuing 55+ Rocks Monthly Speaker Series. The event is free, but reservations must be made in advance by calling 713-4481. Visalia Senior Center is located at 310 N. Locust.

April 12 – First-Aid/CPR Certification
The Visalia Parks and Recreation Department will offer instruction on CPR/AED at the Anthony Community Center. Register online at liveandplayvisalia.com.

April 12 – Run for RAINN & Race to Support Survivors – 7:45am
Sexual Violence Prevention Advocacy Group will hold its annual 5K Run/3K Walk at Lion's Park, 600 Sheffield Ct., Lemoore. Check-in begins at 7:45am for the race that begins at 9am. The money raised from this race will go to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. Sign up at active.com. For information visit, facebook.com/fromviolencetohope.

April 12 – Just Walk - 8-9am
Visalia Parks and Recreation will host a walk with a doc program on the second Saturday each month through December at Riverway Sports Park, 3611 N. Dinuba Blvd.

April 12 – Second Saturday Book Club – 11am
The Second Saturday Book Club will meet in the Tulare Public Library Charter Room to discuss "Stones From the River," by Ursula Hegi. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

April 14 – Beit Shalom Visalia Seder Dinner – 6pm
All the Ritual foods as well as music and singing will be featured at the Beit Shalom Visalia Seder Dinner. For information, visit facebook.com/BeitShalomVisalia.

April 15 – Intro a la Computadora 2 – 8:45am
Tulare Public Library will offer a computer class in Spanish. To sign up for any computer classes call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk.

April 16 & 30 – The Knitting Club – 5:30pm
This club meets every-other Wednesday in the Olympic Room of the Tulare Public Library. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

April 18 – PowerPoint 1 Class – 8:30am
Tulare Public Library will offer a computer class. To sign up for any computer classes call 685-4503 or stop by the research and information desk.

April 20 – PFLAG Meeting – 3-5pm
PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will meet at Congregation B'Nai David, 1039 S. Chinowith St., Visalia. For information visit pflag-tulare-kings.org.

April 22 – Computer Class in Spanish Language – 8:45am
Tulare Public Library will introduce a new computer class on the first and third Tuesday of the month in Spanish. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

April 24 – 14th Annual Rodeo Blood Drive
Donors will receive a commemorative T-shirt featuring artwork by local artist David Dalgety, along with Clovis Rodeo discounts. The drive will be held at Visalia Donor Center, 1515 S. Mooney Blvd., Monday through Thursday from 8am-6:30pm; Friday 8am-6pm; and Saturday, 9am-1pm.

Arts Visalia Presents 'Baskets & Gourds: Containers of Our Culture 2014'

KEVIN BOWMAN

Artist: Kristy Dial of Minden, Nevada

Artist: Audrey Fontaine of Salinas, California

A reoccurring discussion among artists revolves around the relevance of historical, traditional art forms in our 21st century digital culture. Why would one choose to make things by hand, using old ways and natural materials, when one could use modern technology to create that thing more quickly and for less cost?

Often, it seems, artists become the few among us who continue to practice using old ways of making things. Today, museums are repositories for all manner of aesthetically compelling objects, whether functional or non-functional, purely decorative or intellectually based expression. While new art forms seem to arise with each generation and we renew again the debate as to what constitutes a work of art, we, too, continue to feel a pull toward the handcrafted object. We still seek to fill the spaces in which we live with beauty.

In the latest exhibition at Arts Visalia, we approach this subject once again as we present a fascinating display of artworks created by artists whose primary practice revolves around the making of containers, bowls, baskets and other vessels, from natural fibers and gourds. Not only are these traditional art forms, they are, in fact, ancient practices utilized by cultures throughout human history. Yet today artists continue to find inspiration in these old methods and in doing so, remind us all of our own history and why we treasure each and every connection we have to our memory of old ways, knowledge and culture.

For the third time in five years, Arts Visalia is proud to partner with the local Tulare-Sequoia Gourd Patch in presenting "Baskets and Gourds: Containers of Our Culture 2014," an exhibition of gourd art and basket-weaving. The exhibition serves as an extension of a weekend of workshops and presentations to be held here in Visalia over the last weekend of April as gourd art and basket artists from throughout California and, in fact, throughout the United States, will be descending upon Visalia in order to study the techniques of these contemporary masters of gourd art and basketry.

Remarkable craftsmanship is one hallmark of the works in the exhibition, while reverence to these traditional art forms is another defining characteristic present in the works. Yet, while the artists clearly demonstrate a passion for the ancient traditions represented by the methods they employ, it is clear that these artists continue to adapt new materials and contemporary aesthetic concerns to their work.

As the title of the conference and the exhibition may suggest, the artworks on display are rooted in baskets and gourds, utilitarian objects plain and simple. Traditionally speaking, such objects may well have been ornamented and patterned for decorative purposes, but the objects were made for functional purposes, to contain, to store things. Today's artists have expanded the scope of their work by making non-functional, purely sculptural works as well as by employing new, modern materials into their working process.

In addition to local artists and conference organizers Toni Best, Sam McKinney and Linda Victory, artists with work in the exhibition come from throughout California in addition to others from Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Nevada and Washington. The list of artists includes some of the most widely recognized practitioners of these traditional art forms in the country, and we are excited to share their work with the community.

To document the exhibition, a printed catalog featuring full-color images of works by all of the artists involved is being published by Arts Visalia with the support of a grant from the City of Visalia's Community Arts Grant Program. These will be available for purchase at Arts Visalia.

The exhibition will be on display at Arts Visalia, 214 East Oak Avenue, Visalia, through April 26, with an opening reception to be held on our usual First Friday schedule. Refreshments are being provided by Jack and Charlie's restaurant. In addition, as the kick-off event for the conference weekend, a second reception will take place on the evening of Friday, April 25th, from 6-8pm. As always, admission to the gallery and both events is free and open to the public.

For more information, call 739-0905, email artsvisalia@sbcglobal.net or visit www.artsvisalia.org.

Kevin Bowman is the director of Arts Visalia and an instructor of art at College of the Sequoias.

ART

April

Through April 26 – Tulare Business Pride Mini Exhibit
The Tulare Historical Society and Museum will host a mini-exhibit in its audio-visual room. Tulare Business Pride showcases a selection of business memorabilia from some of Tulare's finest businesses. The museum, at 444 W. Tulare Avenue, is open from 10am-4pm Thursday through Saturdays. Admission is $5 for adults. Student and senior discounts available. For information, visit tularehistoricalmuseum.org.

Through May 16 – Awakening Exhibit – 5:30-8:30pm
"Awakening Exhibit" at Provost & Pritchard, 130 N Garden St., Visalia, will feature artwork by Betty Berk, Toni Best, Jeri Burzin, Laurie Gorman, Linda Hengst, Deborah Nolan, Deanna Saldana and Lynn Ramires. A reception will be held at the Downtown Wine Walk in Visalia April 3.

April 4 – Baskets and Gourds: Containers of Our Culture Reception
Arts Visalia will hold an opening reception for The Tulare-Sequoia Gourd Patch Containers of Our Culture exhibit. The Arts Visalia exhibit will show works by leading artists in the fields of basket weaving and gourd art from April 2 through April 26. A second reception will be held April 25 to kick off the weekend of the Containers of Our Culture Conference. For information, visit artsvisalia.org.

April 5 – First Saturday in Three Rivers – 11am-5pm
First Saturday in Three Rivers will feature open art studios and art vendors. For information, visit 1stsaturdaytr.com.

April 4 – Kings Art Center Annual Spring Show Reception – 5:30-7:30pm
The Kings Art Center will hold an Opening Reception for the artists featured in the Spring Show exhibit that runs from April 5-May 17. For information visit kingsartcenter.org.

April 5-19 – The RESTATE Project
This Kings County Office of Education sponsored program focuses on student mental health and the reduction and elimination of stigma through art targeted education. The project is under the supervision of Ellice Blevins, art instructor at Hanford West High School, and features the work from students in her program. The display will be shown in in the Banister Studio, Hanford. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

April 5-May 17 – The Spring Show
An annual open entry exhibit hosted by the Kings County Art League and the Kings Art Center will feature works of art by members and non-members from the community. The display will be in the Marcellus Gallery. For information, visit kingsartcenter.org.

THEATER

April

April 4-6, 11-13 – Fiddler on the Roof – 7:30pm
Lindsay Community Theater presents "Fiddler on the Roof," a 25th anniversary revival. The first play presented by the Lindsay Community Theater was "Fiddler on the Roof." A matinee performance will be held at 2pm on Sundays. For information, visit lindsaycommunitytheater.com.

April 17 – Laughter's Good - Rodney Carrington – 7:30pm
Tachi Palace will present comedian Rodney Carrington. Bingo Hall Doors open at 6pm. Mature audience only. Tickets are $45, $55, $85. For information, visit tachipalace.com.
April 17 – Short Term 12 – 7:30pm
Stella Artois Independent Film Series & The Visalia Fox Theatre present "Short Term 12" at the Visalia Fox. For information, visit foxvisalia.com.

May

May 1-4, 9-11 and 16-18 – Nobody's Perfect
Encore Theatre Company presents "Nobody's Perfect" at the Encore Theatre, 324 South N Street, Tulare. Advance tickets available. For more information, visit tulareencoretheatre.org or call 686-1300.

May 15 – Cutie and The Boxer – 7:30pm
Stella Artois Independent Film Series & The Visalia Fox Theatre present "Cutie and the Boxer." Tickets, $6-$8, are available at the box office or foxvisalia.com.

May 17 – TCOE Slick Rock Film Festival – 7pm
The Slick Rock Student Film Festival is Central California's premier film competition for middle and high school students in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced and Tulare counties. The Awards Ceremony and Film Festival will be held at the Visalia Fox, 300 W. Main St. Admission is free.

See more events online
ourvalleyvoice.com

Kings Art Center to Open Three Exhibitions on April 5

STAFF REPORTS

The Kings Art Center in Hanford will present "The Spring Show" in its Marcellus Gallery from April 5 through May 17. The Kings County Art League and the Kings Art Center host this annual open-entry exhibit of drawing, painting, photography, sculpture and mixed-media art that has been presented at various local sites over the past 60+ years.

As in the past, ribbons and cash awards have been presented to the top three winners in six categories: watercolor, painting, photography, mixed-media, drawing, fiber arts and sculpture.

In its Members' Gallery, the center will present "Celebrating Pastel: Work by Lavone Sterling," April 5 through May 17. Sterling, a nationally recognized award-winning artist from Visalia, is presenting her current work in pastel, painting both landscapes and portraits. She is a signature member of the Pastel Society of America, Sierra Pastel Society and the Alliance of California Artists. Sterling holds a master's degree in studio art from CSUF, and is a retired community college art instructor.

"Although I have years of experience as a painter, I am a newcomer sto pastel, having only picked up my first pastel stick three years ago in a workshop taught by Leslie Harrison," said Sterling. "Since that time, I have studied and mentored under Richard McKinley, Tina Moore and Kim Lordier. The beauty of pastel is in its versatility. It never ceases to surprise me and I am continuously learning something new."

In its Banister Studio, "Shades of Blue," featuring the work of Hanford West RESTATE student artists, will run from April 5-19. This Kings County Office of Education-sponsored program focuses on student mental health and the reduction and elimination of stigma through art-targeted education. The project, under the supervision of Ellice Blevins, art instructor at Hanford West High School, with strong support from Principal Darrin Parson, features work by students in her program.

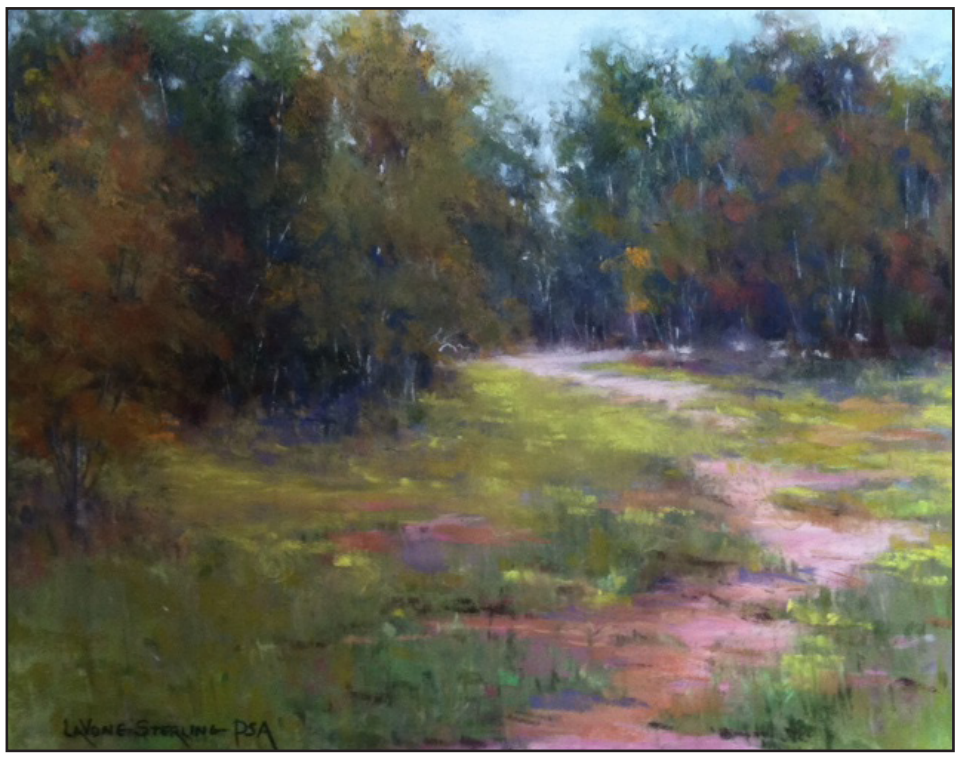
The RESTATE project is a grassroots movement and the first of its kind in the nation. While taking coursework, selected students are made more aware of mental health related issues within the school and community and are then challenged to use their creativity to promote awareness and understanding of these issues.

"Through their art, students share personal stories and develop a broader understanding of mental health issues amongst their peers," said Blevins. "The common thread used with all training sessions has been 'Shades of Blue,' Blue is used to describe someone who is less than happy or going through a hard time. We also used this theme as a literal element, the color blue. Some students used inverted color technology to show that things weren't always as they seemed. Much like the home life and personal struggles that some have and others can't see, some artwork is to be viewed through a smart phone, in the inverted color mode, to see the other side, the dark side of their art and its meaning."

An opening reception will be held on Friday, April 4, from 5:30-7pm.

Kings Art Center is located at 605 N. Douty St., Hanford. For more information, call 584-1065 or visit www.kingsartcenter.org.

"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," by Kathy Coombs



"Early Morning Reflections," by Lavone Sterling.

KIDS CALENDAR

April 2-30 – Kindermusik Sing & Play – 9-9:45am
The Visalia Parks and Recreation Department will hold a child development course for infants up to 18 months. Age-appropriate activities focus on children's beginning movements and vocal development. For information, visit liveandplayvisalia.com.

April 4– YA Book Club–6pm
The YA Book Club (Young Adults) meet the first Friday of each month in the Tulare Public Library Charter Room. The discussion will be "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," by Betty Smith. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

April 5 – Once Upon A Dream – 9am
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Tulare County hosts Blue Ribbon Campaign and annual Once Upon a Dream event. CASA, the Child Abuse Prevention Council, and the Tulare County District Attorney's Office will kick off the 19th annual Blue Ribbon Campaign with a March on Main Street at Center and Floral streets. There will be face painting and other events for kids, and information booths.

April 5 – Preschool Story-time – 11:15am
Every Friday Preschool Story-time is held at Tulare Public Library in the Kids' Space. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

April 5 – Kids Activities – 1-2pm
Kids' Activities take place every Saturday in the Olympic Room of the Tulare Public Library. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

April 5 – Homework Help
Homework help for children in grades K-12 is available in the Tulare Public Library Learning Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-7pm and Saturdays from 1-4pm. It will be closed April 12-19 and resume Tuesday, April 22. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

April 7, 14, 21, 28 and May 5 – Premiere Etiquette for Kids
Etiquette classes for kids are offered in Exeter. For information, and to register, visit tiffanynielsen.com.

April 8 – Kindergarten Readiness Story-time – 6:15pm
Every Tuesday evening Kindergarten Readiness Story-time is held at Tulare Public Library in the Kids' Space. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

April 8-9 & 22-23 – YU-GI-OH
Young adults, ages 10-19, can sharpen YU-GI-OH strategy skills from 5-6pm on April 8, 9 and 22. Then play in a tournament from 5-7pm on April 23rd. For information, visit tularepubliclibrary.org.

April 14-18 – Make It or Break It Day Camp – 1-5pm
Anthony Community Center in Visalia invites young engineers, ages 7-12 years, to explore the world of ingenuity and creativity. Call 713-4365 for information.

Jazzaffair

Continued from p. 17

Saturday, music begins at 8:45am and runs until about 10:30pm. Sunday morning starts off at 10:15am with gospel music in the Lion's Arena, Memorial Building and the Presbyterian Church, and ends with the Grand Finale from 3:45-5pm. Most of the bands play at least once each day.

On Thursday, April 10, at 5pm, the Lions Club will host its annual Recognition Dinner with Jazz Music at the Lions Arena. Early arrivals for Jazzaffair are invited to join in. Admission is free, and the barbecue dinner is $15.

The Three Rivers Historical Museum will be open all three days and will feature the history of Jazzaffair and the High Sierra Jazz Band. Memorabilia and pictures from the past will be on display. Admission is free.

Three-day, all-event passes are available for purchase in advance, and daily passes are available at each venue. Free shuttle bus transportation runs regularly between each of the venues: Lion's Club Arena, Memorial Building and Tent and St. Anthony's Retreat. RV spaces are available at four locations.

Call (559) 561-4549 for additional information regarding accommodations or the event, or visit www.jazzaffair.info.

Guitars

Continued from p. 17

Even though his career in music is only at the beginning, Raniolo has already had many opportunities that take most players a lifetime to achieve, having toured 14 countries and played with some of the world's leading musicians.

D'Agostino's playing has been described as a wonderful journey, taking its inspiration from the music of Brazil, America, Ireland and his native Italy. His inspired and poetic guitar style saw him voted as "Best Acoustic Guitarist" by readers of Guitar Player Magazine.

Tickets are $25-$55, and are available by calling 625-1369 for information and tickets or visiting www.foxvisalia.org.

Symphony

Continued from p. 17

and realized Berlioz' genius. They finally met and married in 1833 but separated after several years of unhappiness.

Symphony Music Director Bruce Kiesling will talk about the backgrounds of each piece in his pre-concert talk at 6:45pm.

Tickets are $30 to $39.50 and available at the symphony office, 208 W. Main St., Suite D, Visalia, downstairs in Montgomery Square. Student prices are $10. Tickets are also available at 732-8600 or visit www.tularecountysymphony.com.

The season brochure for 2014-15 is now out. If you're not on the mailing list, contact the symphony office for a copy.

DON'T RECYCLE THIS PAPER.
MAKE A HAT

The 2013 Best of the Valley Quilt Show.

Best of the Valley Quilt Show Looms April 4-6 in Lindsay

The Best of the Valley Quilt Show will be held at McDermont Field House, 365 N. Sweet Brier in Lindsay, April 4-6. The featured artist is Sara Kelly of Hanford.

The event features the Best of the Valley Quilt Challenge, in which residents of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced and Tulare counties were challenged to create a small quilt expressing their personal "Best of the Valley." The response was enthusiastic, and there are 18 quilts depicting everything from ag to family to weather and many things in between. These entries came from quilters in Visalia, Exeter, Porterville, Springville, Tipton, Ducor, Hanford, Bakersfield and Madera.

"Grampa's Grove" by DeAnn Hedberg Farris

The event's Vendor Mall will offer all sorts of goodies that any quilter, crafter or fiber artist might be seeking. Not only will there be fabric and sewing machines, but there will be vendors selling antique buttons, yarn, jewelry, books and more. Becky Rogers, an AQS Certified Quilt Appraiser, will be available for consultations and/or written appraisals, for a fee.

There will be about 225 competition quilts, as well as a hand-crafted doll exhibit, quilts by quilters 80 and older, and quilts by quilters under 18.

Hours are 10am-5pm Friday and Saturday, and 10am-4pm Sunday. General admission is $10 daily or $15 for three-day pass. Children under 12 admitted free, when accompanied by an adult. For more information, call 625-5430 or visit www.botvquilts.com.

Jack Ass Mail Run to Travel from Porterville to Springville April 12

The 2013 Jack Ass Mail Run.

In 1961, as part of the City of Porterville's Centennial Celebration, the Jack Ass Mail Run carried mail by horseback via the old Immigrant Trail through Downtown Porterville and east into Springville. This year marks the 53rd Annual Jack Ass Mail Run slated for Saturday, April 12.

This long-standing Porterville/Springville tradition is carried out each year by the Jack Ass Mail Run Committee and is open to the public. The Wagon Master and his posse will gather in front of Porterville City Hall at 8am and set out to deliver the mail to Springville. Along the way, hundreds of riders on horseback, covered wagons, buggies and stagecoaches will join in on the ride that travels through east Porterville, along the 190 East and ends in Springville. A posse of bandits is always waiting in Springville to steal the mail, and a gunfight ensues. Other festivities waiting at the end of the ride in Springville include music in the park, vendors and a rib cook-off.

The mail is collected for weeks in special handmade rustic boxes, stamped with a special "Jack Ass Mail Run Stamp." The community is encouraged to purchase a Jack Ass Mail Run stamp for four bits (50¢) and have a letter delivered as it was in the Old West. Stamps may be purchased from any JAMR Committee Member, Freeway Auto Parts, Porterville Chamber of Commerce, The Antler's and Evans Feed Supply.

Anyone wanting to participate in the ride is to meet on D Street between Olive and Orange, ready to ride at 8:30am. For more information, call 784-6010.

The 2014 JAMR is sponsored by: Faggart Buick, Fruit Growers Supply, Evans Feed, Scott & Jody Scheer, 2 Market Visuals, The Antlers, Oscar Hernandez M.D., Lewis Steel and George Rodriguez.

31ST ANNUAL EX-WAGON MASTER DANCE

A prelude to the Jack Ass Mail Run, the 31st Annual Ex-Wagon Master Dance is set for Saturday, April 5, at the Elks Lodge in Porterville from 7pm to midnight. The dance will feature the live, country-western band Dos Okies, door prizes, gun raffle and a 50/50 drawing. The 2014 Wagon Master will also be announced.

Tickets for this 21+ event are $10 at the door. Presale dance tickets can be purchased any JAMR Committee Member, Freeway Auto Parts, Porterville Chamber of Commerce, The Antler's and Evans Feed Supply.

2ND ANNUAL JAMR RIB COOK-OFF

The Springville Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Rib Cook-Off in conjunction with the Jack Ass Mail Run on Saturday, April 12, in Downtown Springville. Rib Cook-Off Teams are invited to put their BBQ skills to the test as they vie for cash prizes. Call 784-2353 for information.